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PAGE 21

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Ex-military man in court facing murder charge

Acquaintance. Mother of slain man says accused knew her son

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Family members and friends of Fouad Nayel packed a small courtroom Thursday as they watched a man accused of killing him make his first court appearance by video link.

Adam J. Picard, 29, of Orleans was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Nayel, 28, who went missing June 17.

Nayel's decomposed body was found by a member of the public Nov. 11 in a wooded area near Norton Road in Calabogie.

On video Picard stood motionless in handcuffs wearing a navy blue sweatshirt and jeans. He remained mostly silent, only saying his name.

Quoted

"I can't sit at the table with my whole family because there's always a chair missing."

Nicole Nayel, mother of slain man Fouad Nayel

He was remanded into custody and will appear in court Dec. 20 for the judge to set a date for a bail hearing.

As Nayel's mother, Nicole, left the courtroom with more than a dozen supporters behind her, family members had to help her stand up as she collapsed in tears.

Outside the courtroom, she told reporters she had suspected Picard from Day 1.

She told Metro in August she had suspicions about a man who she says called her son five times on his cellphone the day he went missing.

She said she checked her son's cellphone records and arranged to meet with that person at a Tim Horton's to ask what he was doing with her son on June 17.

On Thursday, she told Metro that man was Picard.

She acknowledged the proceedings could drag on for a while, but she just wants whoever is responsible to face justice.

"I can't sit at the table with my whole family because there's always a chair missing," she said.

Sean May, Picard's lawyer, said it's his understanding his client had served in the military and was studying at Le Cordon Bleu. Picard's Facebook profile says the same thing. Court records show he has no criminal record.

May said it was "a shock" to his client to be charged with murder and he is anxious to hear the evidence against him in court.

Follow Joe Lofaro on Twitter @giuseppelo

Adam J. Picard, accused of first-degree murder in the death of Fouad Nayel is seen in this undated Facebook photo.
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NEWS

Two years of data

OPS looking for feedback on racial profiling study

The Ottawa Police Service is looking for feedback on a new initiative to track racial data during traffic stops in an effort to ensure "bias-free policing."

The Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project, a result from a settlement between the Ottawa Police Services Board and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, is slated to begin in April 2013.

Police will track the race of people subjected to traffic stops over a period of two years. A team of researchers from York University will then analyze the data.

According to Deputy Chief Ed Keeley, the discussions about the program and the issue of race and law are almost as important as the initiative itself.

"The collection of data is important, but so too is the data that's going to take place around the issue," Keeley said Thursday.

"We're trying to look at this, beyond the collection of data, as a bit of an opportunity as well just for us to have the dialogue around the issue."

Keeley said he doesn't think the fact that officers will have to track race during traffic stops will affect their behaviour, saying he expects officers will act professionally.

The Ottawa Police Services Board will receive an update on the initiative on Dec. 17.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Online

For more local news, visit metronews.ca.

Mayor, police chief take part in menorah lighting

From left, Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau, Knoxdale-Merivale Coun. Keith Egli, Mayor Jim Watson and Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn pose behind a menorah, which was lit on Thursday at Ottawa Police Services headquarters. Members of city council, Ottawa's Jewish community and uniformed police officers gathered in the foyer at headquarters for the lighting ceremony to mark Hanukkah. The menorah is an integral symbol of the Jewish celebration and is often displayed in a public area. The one at 474 Elgin St. will remain there for the remainder of the holiday. One candle is lit each of the eight days of the holiday. This year, Hanukkah is from Dec. 8 to 16. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Woman charged with abducting daughter

Arrested. Girl, now safe, had been taken from her Ottawa school — witnesses said she left in a car with a woman

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Police say a woman accused of abducting her nine-year-old daughter appeared in court Thursday to face a number of charges.

Court records show the woman was charged with abduction, disobeying a court order, failing to provide the necessities of life and being at large without an excuse. Police arrested her Wednesday night in North York.

A publication ban prevents the mother and her daughter from being identified. Police said the woman did not have legal custody of her daughter.

The search for the missing girl spanned two weeks and the investigation was a collaboration between the Ottawa Police Services and Durham Regional Police.

The girl was in the care of Children's Aid Society Thursday pending her return to Ottawa to be reunited with her father.

Reached by phone Thursday evening, the girl's father said he was looking forward to seeing his daughter again.

"I'm very happy," he said. "The girl's gone through a lot, so I want to concentrate on my daughter. I don't know if I could have done anything to not let this happen. Who would do this knowing that you're going to go to jail for this?"

He said he considers child abduction a "pretty serious crime."

The girl's mother is scheduled to appear in court on Monday.

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A change is gonna come for First Nations, musician says

Idle No More.
Civil-rights movement builds as aboriginals and other Canadians interact more, A Tribe Called Red member says

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Murdered and missing aboriginal women, a hunger strike and storming of the House of Commons by First Nations chiefs are all signs of a brewing native civil-rights movement, said Cree musician Ian Campeau Thursday.

"A bunch of our rights are being affected right now and trampled on," said Campeau, a member of local electronic music trio A Tribe Called Red, adding the movement is being brought about through social media.

"These rights have been in place for 200 years," he said. "It affects my kids. They won't have the same rights that I have if this keeps going. This is the beginning of our civil-rights movement."

Monday, thousands of First Nations people gathered in seven different cities across Canada to begin Idle No More. The campaign is a backlash against federal budget Bill C-45, which prompted a group of chiefs and some elders to storm the House of Commons in anger last Tuesday.

The legislation alters a vast array of existing laws. Among the changes C-45 has drawn criticism for are amendments that reduce federal environmental regulations on waterways and measures that will allow band councils to lease out reserve land with a smaller majority of band members' support.

Facebook and Twitter are creating interactions in the aboriginal community around these issues that weren't possible before, Campeau said.

"With the reservation system we were put out of everybody's way on purpose. It didn't create that friction that happened between blacks and Caucasians living in the same city," he said. "Social media is creating that friction now. More of us are also being lawyers and living in cities and see what's happening."

More and more native youth are learning about how their rights are being affected. "It's easy to just read and learn something about what is happening and retweet it."

Cree musician Ian Campeau says the Internet is making it easier for people to get involved in the First Nations' civil-rights movement. METRO FILE

First Nations groups are also calling for a federal inquiry into the deaths of more than 580 aboriginal women in Canada, citing a ratio of 25 to 1 for missing or murdered aboriginal women compared to non-aboriginals. Attawapiskat Chief Teresa Spence also began a hunger strike Monday, saying the housing crisis in her North Ontario reserve hasn't been resolved after the government promised to find solutions last year.

Under the new rules of C-45 the federal government would not need to consult aboriginals if the planned Northern Gateway pipeline goes through First Nations' land on its way to the west coast, said Campeau.

"I think it's going to be the start of something big that needed to be done a long time ago," said Campeau of the Idle No More movement. "It's funny how nobody understands treaties. We get health care and education and you get land."

Long time coming?

"I think it's going to be the start of something big that needed to be done a long time ago."
Ian Campeau, on the Idle No More movement

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McAfee back in the U.S. without money or a home

Deported. Anti-virus mogul getting by on borrowed cash while he waits for girlfriends to arrive in Miami

John McAfee faces the media upon arriving in Miami on Thursday. CM GUERRERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-virus-company founder John McAfee said Thursday that U.S. authorities have made no efforts to question him since he arrived in Miami after weeks of evading Belizean authorities who want to ask him about the death of his neighbour.

"Why would they want to question me, about what?" a tired-looking but sharply dressed McAfee said Thursday from the steps of his South Beach hotel. The multimillionaire was characteristically chatty and seemed to enjoy posing for pictures with tourists and signing autographs while talking about his two girlfriends and the alleged corruption in Belize that forced him to flee.

McAfee was deported from Guatemala after sneaking in illegally from Belize, where police want to question him in connection with the death of a U.S. expatriate who lived near him on an island off Belize's coast.

U.S officials said there was no active arrest warrant for McAfee that would justify taking him into custody.

He said he was put on a plane to Miami where he will stay until his two girlfriends, 20-year-old Belizean Samantha Vanegas and a woman he called "Amy," can join him.

The 67-year-old British native said he has no money and no home in the U.S. and has been getting by on cash that a Canadian friend sent him until his property manager comes to Miami with his cash and credit cards.

If he's reunited with the women, he said he doesn't know where he'll live or how he'll rebuild his life.

Over the weekend, he said he would be happy to go to England, noting he has dual citizenship.

McAfee bristled as reporters repeatedly asked him why he won't answer questions from officials in Belize, denying he was under investigation.

He stressed that he was afraid to answer questions because dozens of officials there stormed his property, killed his dogs, handcuffed him for hours and tried to extort money.

He said he had no choice but to flee because "there was a nationwide manhunt for me" and he worried he would be thrown in a cell and silenced if captured.

He has not been charged with a crime. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charity

Botched-fresco artist goes eBay

The 80-year-old Spanish artist who became famous because of her botched restoration of a Christ fresco in a small-town church is auctioning one of her works on eBay for charity.

Celia Gimenez's oil painting Las Bodegas de Borja (Borja's Wine Cellar) was fetching $808 US Thursday, doubling its starting price after 31 bids. The sale closes Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vandalism

Man jailed for defacing art

A Polish man who defaced a Mark Rothko painting in London's Tate Modern gallery with black ink to promote an obscure artistic creed was sentenced Thursday to two years in jail.

Wlodzimierz Umaniec, also known as Vladimir Umanets, was arrested after visitors discovered a scrawl across the bottom of Rothko's Black on Maroon on Oct. 7.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High tides in Sunset Beach

A man looks at the overflowed Pacific Coast Highway in the Sunset Beach area of Huntington Beach, Calif., on Thursday. Astronomical high tides have caused minor street flooding in some low-lying areas along the Southern California coast. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alleged plot to kill Bieber foiled at Canadian border

Wrong turn. Police say alleged would-be assassins arrived at the border by mistake, were arrested, then betrayed

A plot to kill Justin Bieber, allegedly masterminded by a 45-year-old prisoner obsessed with the young star, was derailed when the accused would-be assassins accidentally ended up at the Canadian border, according to court documents.

Dana Martin, serving two life sentences in a New Mexico prison for the killing of a 15-year-old girl, told police he had hatched the scheme after Bieber never returned messages he sent to the singer.

Police recounted in an affidavit that Martin, who has a tattoo of Bieber on his leg, told them the perceived slight was part of what led him to dream up the alleged murder plot.

"In the end, what Mr. Martin stated he was seeking was a measure of notoriety," police wrote in the affidavit.

Bieber was not the only target in the alleged conspiracy — police allege two men Martin hired were also told to kill Bieber's bodyguard and two people unconnected to the star.

The men Martin allegedly had carrying out his plot were to use pruning shears to cut off the testicles of the first two victims in Vermont and kill them, then travel to New York, kill the bodyguard and abduct and kill Bieber, Martin told police.

There are no details in the affidavit of how the men, a recently released ex-con and his nephew, were to carry out the murder of one of the biggest stars in the world.

But Martin said he drew Mark Staake, 41, into his plot when they met in prison this year by telling Staake that he had access to money, a hideout and had gang connections in New York.

Staake brought his 23-year-old nephew, Tanner Ruane, into the scheme, Martin told investigators.

Dana Martin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Staake
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanner Ruane
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staake was released on probation at the end of October and started to track Bieber's whereabouts, Martin said. The murder was to take place in New York at the end of November, according to the affidavit, when Bieber was in the city for a concert.

The uncle and nephew team arrived in Vermont on Nov. 19 but realized on the highway they were headed to the Canadian border, according to the affidavit. They missed the last exit before the border and turned around to join the cars entering the Highgate Springs, Vt., point of entry, police said.

The U.S. border agent found Staake had an outstanding probation violation warrant from New Mexico, and he was arrested.

Martin and Ruane spoke on the phone later that day, and when Ruane told Martin that Staake had been arrested, Martin called off the plot. In the phone call, which was recorded by authorities, Ruane expressed disappointment at Martin's decision, saying they had found one of the first two victims' homes and had brought a pair of hedge clippers for the castrations.

Martin told his story to police the next morning, and Ruane was arrested with a pair of pruning shears and information on the last-known locations of the first two intended victims stashed in the car, police wrote in the affidavit. New York State Police said Thursday that a "hand-written drawing of a depiction of Justin Bieber" was also found inside the vehicle.

Staake and Ruane were arrested on charges of two counts each of conspiracy to commit murder and two counts each of conspiracy to commit aggravated battery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Royal hoax. Details emerge on nurse's death

A nurse was found hanging in her room three days after she had been duped by a hoax call from Australian DJs about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, a U.K. inquest was told Thursday. The case is being treated as an apparent suicide.

Coroner's officer Lynda Martindill said nurse Jacintha Saldanha was discovered hanging by a scarf from a wardrobe in her nurses' quarters Friday by a colleague and a member of security staff at London's King Edward VII Hospital.

Police detective chief inspector James Harman said Saldanha, 46, also had injuries to her wrists.

He told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court that two notes were found at the scene and another was found among Saldanha's belongings. He said there were no suspicious circumstances involved.

Harman said detectives are investigating what led to her death, and would be contacting police in the Australian state of New South Wales to collect "relevant evidence."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Russia admits Assad could fall

Boys attend class in a city under control of the Free Syrian Army in Aleppo province, Syria. MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Allies. Russia won't say whether it will change pro-Syria stance at UN Security Council

Syria's most powerful ally and protector, Russia, began positioning itself Thursday for the fall of President Bashar Assad, saying for the first time that rebels might overthrow him and preparing to evacuate thousands of Russian citizens from the country.

The head of NATO echoed the Russian assessment, saying the Syrian government is near collapse following a nearly two-year conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people and threatened to ignite the Middle East. Assad appears to be running out of options, with insurgents at the gates of the capital and the country fracturing under the weight of a devastating civil war.

"An opposition victory can't be excluded, unfortunately, but it's necessary to look at the facts: There is a trend for the government to progressively lose control over an increasing part of the territory," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, Moscow's Middle East envoy, said during hearings at a Kremlin advisory body.

Still, Bogdanov gave no immediate signal that Russia would change its pro-Syria stance at the UN Security Council, where Moscow has shielded Damascus from world sanctions.

Russia's acknowledgment that Assad could lose the fight is an embarrassing blow to the regime, which describes the rebels as terrorists sent from abroad with no popular support. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian ties

- Russia has sold Syria billions of dollars worth of weapons
- They also strongly oppose a world order dominated by the United States, and they are keen to avoid a repeat of last year's NATO air campaign that led to the ouster of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, a former ally of Moscow.

Brawl breaks out in Ukrainian parliament

Ukraine's newly elected parliament on Thursday approved two presidential allies for the posts of prime minister and parliament speaker, but the vote was nearly overshadowed by a violent brawl between government supporters and opposition lawmakers.

The Party of Regions led by President Viktor Yanukovych and its allies secured a majority in the Verkhovna Rada following an October election condemned as unfair by the West. But three opposition parties made a strong showing and vowed to challenge Yanukovych's grip on power. Some took that literally. For the second day of the new parliament's work, fists flew as opposition lawmakers chanted "Shame! Shame!" and "No to defectors!"

Shortly after parliament began its work Thursday morning, opposition lawmakers swarmed the parliament's podium and a fight erupted with pro-government legislators. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawmakers fight around the rostrum during the first session of Ukraine's newly elected parliament on Thursday. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Const. Alvin Pennick writes inside a Christmas card in the U.K. METRO WORLD NEWS

Christmas card crime-fighting raises eyebrows

U.K. Metro finds little support for 'strange' police strategy on streets of violent London borough

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

Police Const. Alvin Pennick takes a moment to jot down his thoughts in the snow-speckled Christmas card. "If you threaten another with a knife you will serve a mandatory sentence of minimum six months in prison," the message reads.

More than 200 suspected gang members are receiving these greetings from the police in Tower Hamlets in east London. The area has among the highest violent-crime rates in the U.K. capital, with dozens of organized gangs, and was the scene of fierce clashes during the 2011 riots.

"We want a safe Christmas, and this is a warning, but we are also reaching out to those who want to turn their lives around," Caroline Gustavina of the Tower Hamlets Gang Unit, who launched the project, told Metro. "We can support people into work or education, and if one person wants to live differently, that's a fantastic result."

The card carries a hotline number for recipients to call, but Gustavina admits that there have only been abusive calls so far. This is not a surprise to people on the other side of the divide.

Greetings from U.K. police to suspected gang members. METRO WORLD NEWS

"It won't make a difference; people think it's a joke and don't read it," Stephen Ita, former gang member and youth worker with the XLP charity, told Metro. "Building engagement is not short-term — the police do some great work in the community, but this isn't it."

A spokesman for the Connexions outreach program questioned the police's cultural awareness: "Since many of the gang members in Tower Hamlets are from the Bangladeshi Muslim community, a Christmas card is not the best message."

Local businessman Mohammed Shaed at the area's market said, "Gangs are always stealing here in big groups but when they come the police are never here. This card idea is strange."

Machine-gun Santa

On Monday, police in Abbotsford, B.C., sent out a Christmas card with Santa (actually Chief Const. Bob Rich) holding a machine gun to gangsters and criminals in their community. The controversial card got mixed reactions and was even shown on the popular ABC show Live with Kelly and Michael. The inside of the card also featured a number for gangsters to call if they wanted help getting out of the gang lifestyle. METRO IN VANCOUVER

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Strong loonie, stable economy boost holiday travel

New survey. Canadians will spend average of $563 on seasonal trips

It looks like Santa won't be the only one on the move this holiday season.

The Bank of Montreal says a strong loonie and a relatively stable economy are fuelling a desire by many Canadians to get away over the Christmas-New Year's period.

According to the bank's 2012 Holiday Travel Outlook released Thursday, some 60 per cent of Canadians plan to travel over the holidays, spending an average of $563 apiece on their trips.

The survey found that while some 39 per cent planned to travel within their home province, almost one in five, or 19 per cent, were looking to go abroad. The most popular destination outside of Canada was the United States, with 13 per cent of Canadians heading south of the border.

By the numbers

74%

Travellers will be younger this holiday season, with 74 per cent of Canadians under 30 planning to travel compared with 42 per cent of those 65 and over.

Some three per cent chose Mexico as their preferred destination while eight per cent collectively chose other destinations and 12 per cent said they would be going to other provinces besides their own.

Meanwhile, the survey found that those in Atlantic Canada were the most likely to travel over the holidays (80 per cent), while those in Quebec were the least likely (41 per cent).

The results were from an online survey conducted by Pollara between Oct. 11 and Oct. 16 with a random sample of 1,000 Canadians 18 years of age and over. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Santa's already got his holiday travel arrangements in hand. A new poll found 60 per cent of Canadians also plan to travel over the Christmas-New Year's period. TOM TINGLE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. economy. Little progress made on avoiding fiscal cliff

President Barack Obama and the top Republican in Congress met at the White House late Thursday but there was no immediate indication of progress in the standoff over the looming so-called fiscal cliff of tax increases and deep spending cuts that could trigger another economic recession.

With 18 days left before a deadline for averting the cliff, Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met for about an hour. They made no public comments following the sit-down, their second face-to-face meeting of the week.

The meeting came shortly after Boehner publicly accused Obama of dragging out negotiations on an agreement needed to avoid automatic across-the-board tax hikes and spending cuts scheduled to take effect at year's end. Other Republicans say such a tactic seems to be working when it comes to a deal forcing up tax rates for the wealthy.

The two sides appear far apart on the issue, and Boehner is scheduled to return home to Ohio on Friday.

Hours before the meeting, Obama told reporters a deal is "still a work in progress," while he walked from the White House to a staff holiday party nearby. Asked about Boehner's assertion that he was waiting to hear more from the president, Obama said only, "Merry Christmas." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Speaker John Boehner gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill on Thursday, where he accused President Obama of not being serious about cutting government spending. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taxing issue

- There's increasing resignation within the Republican Party that Obama is going to prevail on the rate issue since the alternative is to allow taxes on all workers to go way up when tax cuts implemented during the George W. Bush presidency expire Dec. 31.

Research in Motion

U.S. customs agency to launch BB10 pilot program

Research In Motion says the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency will launch a pilot program with its smartphones using the new operating system BlackBerry10, likely in January.

However, RIM has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients. BlackBerry smartphones were recently dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Statistics Canada

Household debt hits new record

Canadians are more in debt today than ever before, Statistics Canada said Thursday, in releasing fresh data on household debt. The new report shows household debt to annual disposable income reached a new high at 164.6 per cent, from 163.3 per cent the previous quarter.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has named rising household debt a key risk to the Canadian economy, but noted this week he was encouraged that credit growth appeared to be slowing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Google hides porn under cyber mattress

Filtering furor. Change to SafeSearch settings means fewer saucy pics turn up in results

In a move that polarized online opinion, Google introduced a new algorithm Thursday that will produce fewer pornographic images on its image search.

The change took effect in the U.S. only, and hasn't yet been implemented in Canada.

Twitter was abuzz with the change, which seems to affect the U.K., U.S. and Canada, but not some European countries like Germany.

"Is Google Censuring Porn on Image Search, or Is Search Broken?," tweeted @Philbo as news of the new filter broke Thursday morning.

Most of the early tweets expressed dismay in what was perceived to be increased censorship.

"Don't be evil, Google? Then why does your new Google Images algorithm make it harder to find porn?," tweeted @omar_aok.

But some users saw an upside: "Good news for schools: Google image search gets safer," wrote @jeremypearson.

The new search results come after Google recently changed its SafeSearch settings. Instead of having three SafeSearch options (off, moderate and on), users now only have the option of turning an explicit results filter on or off.

In a statement emailed to Torstar News Service, Google explained that the adult content isn't being censored, just that a user will have to search for it specifically.

"We use algorithms to select the most relevant results for a given query. If you're looking for adult content, you can find it without having to change the default setting — you just may need to be more explicit in your query if your search terms are potentially ambiguous," the statement read.

"No filter is 100 per cent accurate, but SafeSearch should help you avoid most of this type of material," writes Google on its help site.

Twitter user @_WillieClark solemnly declared Thursday "The day the porn died."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.54¢ (-0.01¢)

TSX 12,289.17 (-63.92)

OIL $85.89 US (-88¢)

GOLD $1,696.80 US (-$21.10)

Natural gas: $3.35 (-4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,170.72 (-74.73)

Can you give us examples?

"If you're looking for adult content, you can find it without having to change the default setting — you just may need to be more explicit in your query."

Google statement

Take that, Apple — Google Maps makes a return

The new Google Maps application is shown in New York on Thursday. The world's most popular online-mapping system has returned to iOS with the release of the Google Maps iPhone app. The release comes nearly three months after Apple Inc. replaced Google Maps — which was the iPhone's built-in navigation system — with its own map software. But Apple's maps proved to be far inferior, and the product's shoddiness prompted Apple CEO Tim Cook to issue a rare public apology. A Google Maps iPad app is in the works, but for now, iPad owners can use the maps in iPhone mode. That won't be the best experience, but still may be better than Apple's maps on the iPad. KARLY DOMB SADOF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa

Supreme Court sides with cable, satellite firms on fee system

The CRTC does not have power to make cable providers pay broadcasters for carrying their TV signals, says a decision handed down Thursday by the Supreme Court of Canada that one analyst said should be a win for consumers.

While the decision was hailed by one major cable company as a step forward for customers, broadcasters said the very survival of local TV is at stake.

The Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that setting up such a system is not within the scope of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Telecom analyst Troy Crandall said it's the status quo for consumers, who won't have to bear any costs of a fee-for-carriage system. "It looks like a win for consumers right now because it's not going to have an immediate impact," said Crandall of MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier in Montreal.

Traditional broadcasters will have to find other ways to raise revenues, supplement advertising and support local programming.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyberstalking. U.S. law would crack down on apps that track cellphone users

For about $50, a jealous wife or husband can download cellphone software that can track the whereabouts of a spouse better than any private detective. But in the United States, it soon might be illegal.

The Senate Judiciary Committee was expected on Thursday to approve a law closing a legal loophole that allows so-called cyberstalking apps to operate secretly on a cellphone and transmit the user's location without a person's knowledge.

Telephone companies are barred from disclosing to businesses the locations of people when they make a traditional phone call. But there's no such prohibition on the Internet, and the ambiguity has created a niche for companies such as Retina Software, which makes ePhoneTracker and describes it as "stealth phone spy software."

Retina Software says the program is for the lawful monitoring of a cellphone that the purchaser of the software owns and has a right to monitor. But supporters of the bill say there is no way to ensure the rules are followed.

Victims-advocacy groups say the bill will help to curb stalking and domestic violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People will stalk

"Suspect your spouse is cheating? Don't break the bank by hiring a private investigator."

Slogan on Retina Software's website

Sen. Al Franken introduced the mobile-privacy bill after a domestic-violence case in Minnesota in which a woman was stalked via her cellphone.

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

MONKEY SEE, GOOSE BUMP, BEAR NO CAN DO

THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Pimpin' primate.** The week's top story involves a stylishly dressed monkey wandering cluelessly near a store, and eventually taken to live with a baboon. Wasn't that the premise for Jersey Shore?

2 **Call Me Maybe.** The robocall challenge went before Federal Court this week. Voters questioned the integrity of the election process, and political scientist Peter Russel said, "Canadian citizens don't want to be lied to in robocalls." He's right. Canadians are accustomed to politicians who lie to us in person, dammit!

3 **Diminishing returns.** Imagine waiting hours at a restaurant for a steak, and then being given two of them minutes before they close. You now have to consume massive quantities in a hurry, and while the first two bites are satisfying, the whole thing just ends up making you sick. Welcome to your condensed NHL season.

4 **Good for the goose.** The Canadian dollar rose slightly this week while American currency weakened when it was announced that the U.S. Federal Reserve would be printing additional money to buy up more bonds. I had a friend who used to do that but I haven't seen him in years.

5 **Single mother.** An 11-year-old female polar bear at the Toronto Zoo, who last year rejected three of her own cubs, gave birth to three more on Dec. 6. One died shortly after birth, and the others died on Sunday. The zoo is unclear about how these last two died, and they are investigating. Now, I'm no social worker, but maybe she's just not ready for motherhood?

6 **Ask Men?** Jennifer Lawrence, the 22-year-old star of The Hunger Games, has been named the "most desirable woman" of the year in an annual AskMen.com poll based on several criteria including sex appeal, talent, sense of humour, and professional success, although the latter three are only ever seen by women.

7 **Li-Lo litigation.** I was going to provide an update on Lindsay Lohan's court case but then I had a dream in which she hit me with her Porsche, punched me in the face, stole my watch and made me watch Liz & Dick. I woke up in a cold sweat, screaming, "No mas Lindsay! Please! No mas!"

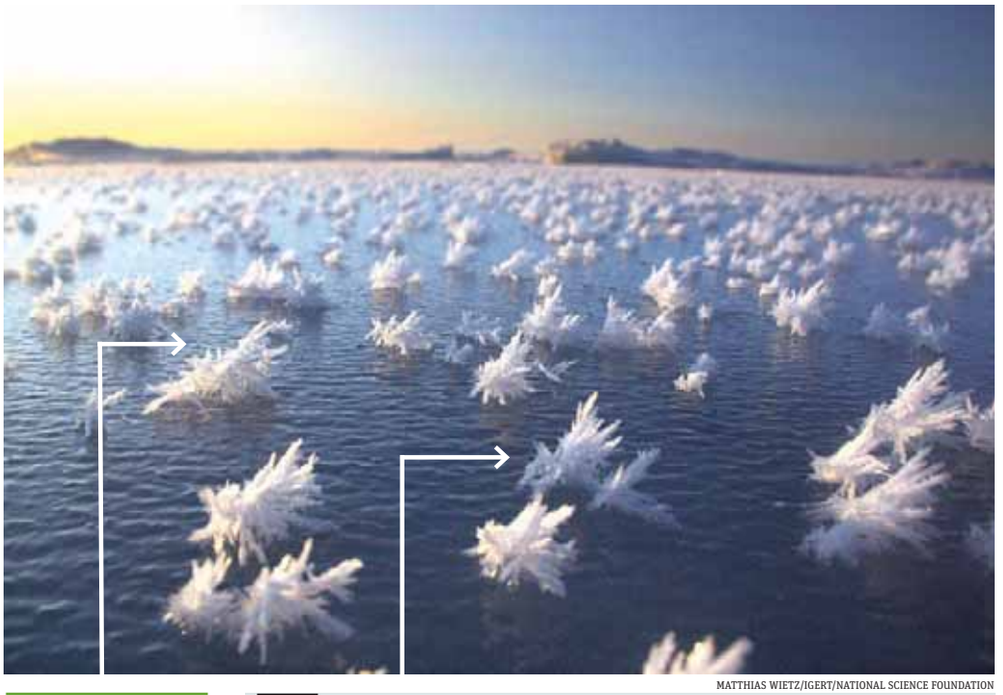
8 **Dalton McGuinty.** Pardon me. What I was going to say about Ontario's premier may already have been said in No. 2 above. Or was it No. 1? Take your pick.

9 **RIP.** We lost two outstanding international artists this week. The first was Jenni Rivera, a huge star in the Latin world, whose life and career were cut short in a plane crash at age 43. The second was Ravi Shankar, 92, whose work with the Beatles made him the best-known contemporary Indian musician of our time. Gen Y may only know him as Norah Jones' dad (and we thank him for that), but his impact on music is unparalleled in many ways. Thankfully, both of these artists left their music for us to cherish. Rock 'n' roll heaven awaits.

Happy Holidays to all.

Golden girl: The Hunger Games' Jennifer Lawrence was named AskMen.com's 'most desirable woman' of the year. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Blooming cold in the Arctic



MATTHIAS WIETZ/IGERT/NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

In the garden of freezin'

Chilly air creates a sea of flowers at the North Pole

Some (flowers) like it hot, but others like these in the North Pole prefer it very cold. Frost flowers, a natural phenomenon where frost grows amid an extremely cold atmosphere on top of warmer water, form unusual floral structures that host microorganisms. Oceanographer Jeff Bowman spoke to Metro about his research.

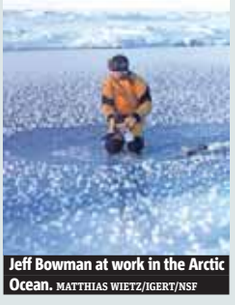
METRO WORLD NEWS

Q&A

Like frost, but in 3-D

How are these frost flowers formed?
They grow on new ice with open cracks. The extremely cold air (below -8 C) becomes saturated, and frost starts to form on the ice's imperfections. Then feathery structures begin to grow out of the cracks, and incorporate marine salt and micro-organisms like algae. They are no different to frost formations, but only in 3-D.

What is the significance of these ethereal structures?



Jeff Bowman at work in the Arctic Ocean. MATTHIAS WIETZ/IGERT/NSF

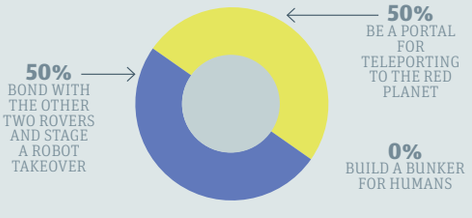
Chemical reactions in the flowers produce compounds that help form clouds. This low cloud cover can alter the local climate — by reflecting sunlight back into space — and thus make the region colder. In addition, frost flowers can potentially release aerosols, which can lead to ozone depletion. But so far this is nothing more than speculation.

What was your first reaction when you saw these?
They are stunning and so ubiquitous, you can see them for kilometres. They form very abruptly, within only a few hours. I recall one expedition to the North Pole: when the fog cleared the entire icescape was covered as far as the eye could see by these bizarre yet beautiful shapes.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

NASA is planning to send another rover to Mars. What should be its mission?


50%
BE A PORTAL FOR TELEPORTING TO THE RED PLANET
50%
BOND WITH THE OTHER TWO ROVERS AND STAGE A ROBOT TAKEOVER
0%
BUILD A BUNKER FOR HUMANS

Twitter

@xXbeccadurisXx: Can't study ... Religion ..... Ewwwww

@SammyPetko: Needa stop wasting my money on food ..

@nikkidesjardins: @kgiaccone Not overly-dramatic. Adequately-dramatic maybe.

@deejdesign: @corastacey oh god.. that corner of the mall is hilarious. just saw a chick holding up a huge 40% off sign at Suzy whatever

@cursedandblessd: Money goes faster than it comes << #brokelife

@Jamiefgig1nrv: If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

metro

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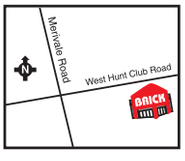

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The Hobbit is a coming-of-age story for Bilbo Baggins. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

High-def hobbits?

Too much tech. The tale of the beginning of Lord of the Rings is overshadowed by 48 frames per second

Richard: Ned, as much as the story and performances, people will be talking about the presentation of the movie. Shot and projected at 48 frames a second — twice the industry standard — the picture is so vivid, so pristine, it doesn't really look like a movie. Combine that with the 3D and it's like watching mega high-definition. Every goblin wart and troll blemish is distinct enough to give dermatologists everywhere nightmares. What did you think of the mega-super-hi-definition look?

Ned: I have to say, the 48 frames per second was a problem for me. It often looked somewhere between a super-high definition 1980s BBC miniseries and a video game, and it just felt utterly un-cinematic. Saying that it doesn't really look like a movie hits the nail on the head. Christopher Nolan has harped on in the past about film having a "warmth" that video can't replicate, and I think I see what he means here. But the biggest crime, I think, is that the sweeping shots of the New Zealand landscape looked fake.

RC: Perhaps it's like the difference between vinyl or CD. I prefer the warm sound of old-school vinyl to the hard digital preproduction of CD. The pops and skips are part of the experience, just as film blur and grain are a part of watching 35 mm projected on the big screen. Having said that, Gollum is awesome at 48 frames a second. The extended scene (for the record, most of the scenes in the film could be called extended), in which Bilbo and Gollum meet and trade riddles is one of the highlights of the film thanks to Serkis' astounding motion capture performance.

NE: That scene is the true highlight of the film, and it coincidentally is where Martin Freeman, as the younger Bilbo, really shines as well. But even with this standout, Peter Jackson and company manage to spoil it (for me at least) by overdoing Gollum's last line to beat the viewer over the head with another reminder that all this leads to the Lord of the Rings. It's a bad habit running through the film that grows tedious. Elijah Wood's cameo is particularly clumsy in this regard, with him basically describing what he's going to do in his first scene in Fellowship of the Ring and then running off to do it.

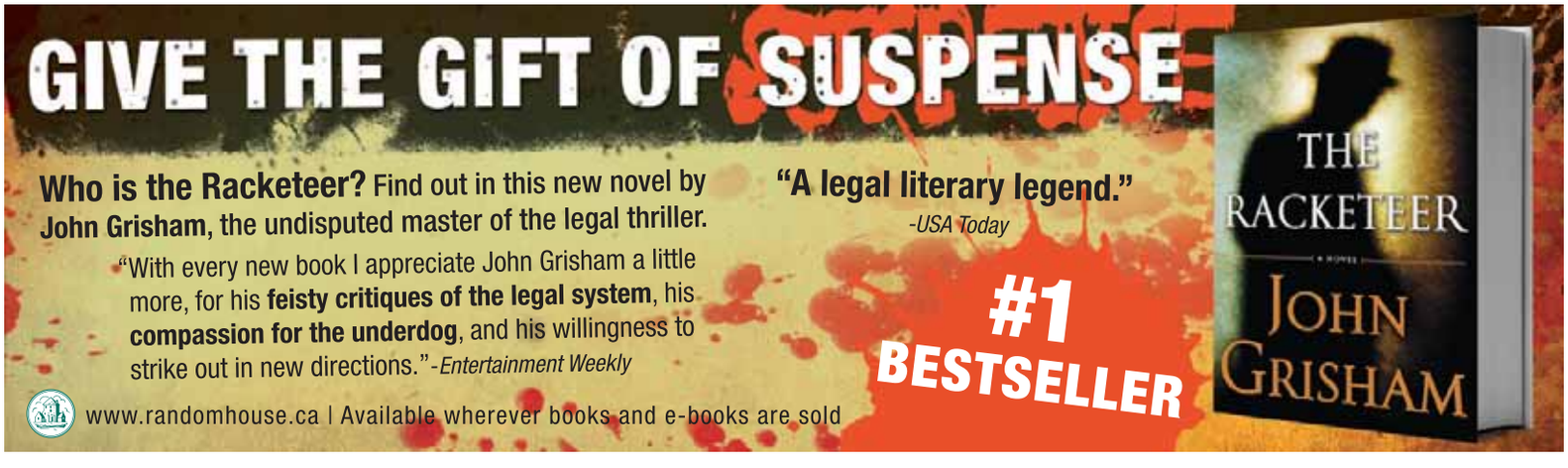
RC: It may be clumsy, but I think fans of the series will revel at the chance of revisiting the characters!

NE: Well, they'll have plenty of chances. If you like this one, the good news is it's just the first of three movies.

Synopsis

The prequel to the immensely popular Lord of the Rings films is a coming-of-age story for Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), a stay-at-home hobbit from Bag End, in Hobbiton in the Shire. He's content with his quiet life until Gandalf (Ian McKellen), a wizard, recruits him to help a group of 13 dwarves in their quest to reclaim their former home, the Lonely Mountain, and its treasure from the dragon Smaug.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Ned: ●●●○○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Barbra Streisand shares her secrets

The Guilt Trip. Multi-talented entertainer dishes about the film industry, Seth Rogen and getting scripts

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Barbra Streisand is many things — an acclaimed actress, singer, director and writer, political activist and philanthropist — but most of all she's a woman not afraid to speak her mind. So what wisdom did Streisand have to impart while promoting the Guilt Trip?

The secret to her success is staying home
"I don't make that many movies and I don't make that many appearances," she says. "That's it. Less is more. And maybe that keeps a little mystery or something. I like to stay home a lot."

She doesn't like where the film industry has been going
"It's not the same as when I last made a film. They're not interested in love stories or any movie that's over $15 million. But it could be $100 million, that's OK. Two hundred million is OK to lose," she laughs. "But movies that I'm used to making or liking, that draw me, they're movies that cost $18 million, $20 million, and they're not interested in those movies. It's a different time."

She doesn't actually get sent that many scripts to consider
"I don't. You see, everybody gets like that. 'She must get so many scripts, why would I send it to her? She'll never get a chance to read it,'" Streisand laments. "Meanwhile I'll go, 'Where are the scripts?'"

Getting her to do The Guilt Trip required an actual guilt trip from director Anne Fletcher
"I remember … I said to Anne, 'Would you make the movie without me?' And she said no," Streisand recalls. "I felt bad, guilty. I said, 'Oh no, she's not going to have this job.'"

While co-star Seth Rogen asked around about what working with Streisand would be like, she wasn't able to do any similar research.
"Seth, it turns out, sussed me out," she says. "He called people from the Focker movies. I didn't know who to call. I don't know any of those people from his movies, so what was I going to do?"

The Guilt Trip opens next Friday. HANDOUT

What's next in the Broadway to big screen adaptations?

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

With Les Misérables hitting theatres Christmas Day, it'll mark just the latest Broadway hit to be brought to the big-screen. While fans must wait a little longer before checking out the adaptation, we wanted to examine other Broadway classics that have yet to be converted into cinematic gold.

The Book of Mormon
Conceived by funnymen Trey Parker and Matt Stone, The Book of Mormon isn't just the 2011 Tony Award champion; it's an unlikely hit musical about missionaries in war-torn Uganda that mixes satire and song the way only the creators of TV's South Park can do.

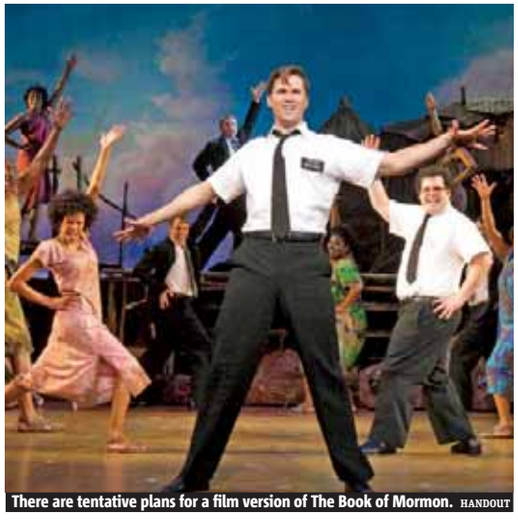
Status: Although the comic duo announced eventual plans for a film version, Parker admitted they're in no rush, telling Movieline, "We'd have to really rethink it."

Avenue Q
Debuting from an experimental play in 2003, this Sesame-Street-for-adults show featuring politically-incorrect (and sometimes nude!) puppets struggling in Manhattan could amp it up even more for the big screen.

Status: There have been rumours but no serious plans are in the works for a big-screen version. May I suggest someone call Jason Segel?

Jersey Boys
This musical biography may have debuted in San Diego but the story of 1960s singing group the Four Seasons has become one of Broadway's biggest box-office draws.

Status: Floating around Hollywood for years, Jersey Boys was to begin production in January (with Iron Man's Jon Favreau directing) until Warner Brothers' recently yanked the project. And so we wait.



There are tentative plans for a film version of The Book of Mormon. HANDOUT

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Ottawa

Bytowne Cinema
325 Rideau St.

Argo (14A) Fri 4:30 Sat 8:59 Sun 8:55
Inglourious Basterds (14A) Mon 9:01 Tue 4:01
The Master (14A) Wed-Thu 9:01
Ping Pong (STC) Fri 7:05 Sat 2:45-7:05 Sun 4:35 Mon 4:45 Tue-Wed 7:05 Thu 4:45
The Story of Film: An Odyssey, Part 7 (STC) Sun 1:01
The Well Digger's Daughter (STC) Fri 8:59 Sat 4:40 Sun 6:30 Mon 6:40 Tue 8:59 Wed 4:45 Thu 6:40

Coliseum Ottawa
3090 Carling Ave.

Batman Returns (STC) Mon 7:30
The Guilt Trip (PG) Wed 3:10-6:20-9:30 Thu 3:10-7:15-9:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 2-2:45-5:50-6:30-9:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:20-5:15-8-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon-Thu 3-6:45-10:25 Fri-Sat 12-3:45-7:30-11:15 Sun 12-3:45-7:30 Mon-Thu 2:30-6:15-10
Khiladi 786 (PG) Fri 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Sat 6:40-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:30-10:10 Mon 3:10-10:30 Tue 3:10-6:20-9:30
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:40-10:40 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:20-10:20 Thu 4:20-10:20 The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 4:30-7-9:30 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Thu 7:30
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:30-10:05 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40 Wed-Thu 4:50-7:25-9:45
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:10-7:45-10:05 Mon-Tue 4:50-7:25-9:45
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:30
Talaash (PG) Fri 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:15 Sat 7:10-10:15 Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10 Mon 3:30-9:55 Tue 3:30-6:50-9:55 Wed-Thu 10:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Mon-Wed 4:10-7-9:50 Thu 4:10-9:50
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon-Tue 5:10-7:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:45
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 8

Empire 7 Cinemas
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza

Anna Karenina (14A) Fri 3-6-9 Sat-Sun 12-3-6-9 Mon 3-6-9 Tue 12-3-6-9 Wed-Thu 3-6-9 The Guilt Trip (PG) Wed-Thu 3:50-6:20-9:30
Hitchcock (PG) Fri 3:30-6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:15 Mon 3:30-6:50-9:15 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:15 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:15 Life of Pi (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-6:40-9:50 Mon 6:40-9:50 Tue 12:20-6:40-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:50
Lincoln (PG) Fri 3:10-6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:50-3:10-6:30-9:45 Mon 3:10-6:30-9:45 Tue 11:50-3:10-6:30-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:10-6:30-9:45 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 3:50-6:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:20-9:20 Mon 3:50 Tue 12:40-3:50-6:20-9:20
Skyfall (PG) Fri 3-6:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:40-3-6:20-9:40 Mon 3-6:20-9:40 Tue 11:40-3-6:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 3-6:20-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 3:20-6:15-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:15-9:10 Mon 3:20-6:15-9:10 Tue 12:10-3:20-6:15-9:10 Wed 3:20 Thu 3:20-6:15-9:10

Mayfair Theatre
1074 Bank St.

Die Hard (STC) Tue 7
Die Hard 2 (STC) Tue 9:30
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Sat 6 Sun 5:30
Jason Becker: Not Dead Yet (STC) Fri 9:30 Sun 8 Mon 9:30
Looper (14A) Fri 7 Sat 8:30 Wed-Thu 9:15
Nightmare City (STC) Fri 11:30
The Perks of Being a Wallflower (14A) Mon 7 Wed-Thu 7
The Room (STC) Sat 11

Mayfair Theatre Orleans
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Argo (14A) Fri 3:45-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:30-9 Mon 6:30-9 Tue 3:45-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6:30-9
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat-Sun 1:15-3:15 Easy Money (STC) Fri 8:30 Sat-Sun 3:45-8:30 Mon-Thu 8:30
Flight (18A) Fri 3:15-6-8:45 Sat-Mon 6-8:45 Tue 3:15-6-8:45 Wed-Thu 6-8:45
Samsara (PG) Fri 3:30-6:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-6:15 Mon 6:15 Tue 3:30-6:15 Wed-Thu 6:15

Rainbow Cinemas
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd.

Argo (14A) Fri 10:40-1:10-3:50-6:30-9:05 Sat 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:05 Sun-Thu 10:40-1:10-3:50-6:30-9:05
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Thu 7:20
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri 10:30-2:50-5:05 Sat-Thu 10:30-12:35-2:50-5:05
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:20-2:20-4:30 Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:40
Mirror Mirror (PG) Sat 11
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri-Thu 10-12:10-2:30-4:50-7:05-9:20 The Sessions (14A) Fri-Thu 10:20-7-9:10
Taken 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 6:50-9

Rideau Centre Cinemas
50 Rideau St.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 3-7 Mon-Thu 7
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 4:30-8:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:30
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sat 4-6:30-9:10 Sun 1:15-4-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 4-6:30-9:10

South Keys
2214 Bank St.,

Batman Returns (STC) Mon 7:30
Flight (18A) Fri 12:40-3:45-6:50-10:15 Sat 6:50-10:15 Sun 12:40-3:45-6:50-10:15 Mon 12:30-3:45-10:15 Tue 12:40-3:45-6:50-10:15 The Guilt Trip (PG) Wed-Thu 11-1:45-4:15-7:10-9:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 10-12:45-1:30-4:30-5:15-8:15-9 Sat 10-12:45-1:30-4:30-5:35-8:15-9:10 Sun-Thu 10-12:45-1:30-4:30-5:15-8:15-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15-10:45-2-2:30-5:45-6:15-9:30-10
Jingle All the Way (STC) Sat 11
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri 12:30-2:45-5-7:30-10:05 Sat 7:30-10:05 Sun-Tue 12:30-2:45-5-7:30-10:05 Wed-Thu 4:40-10
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-1:10-4-6:55-9:50 The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 10:10-12:40-3:45-6:50-9:10
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri 11:20-1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45 Sat 1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45 Sun-Tue 11:20-1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45 Wed-Thu 11:20-1:55-7
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 10:35-12:50 Mon 12:15 Tue 10:35-12:50 Wed-Thu 10:35-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Mon 5:30-7:50-10:10 Tue 3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:55-6:30-9:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25-1:05-3:50-6:35-9:20
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:40

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The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:10-6:30-9:10 Mon 6:30-9:10 Tue 12:30-3:10-6:30-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:10
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:50 Tue 12:50 Le réveil des gardiens (G) Fri-Sun 3:40 Tue 3:40
Skyfall (13+) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon 6:40-9:30 Tue 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-7-9:50 Mon 7-9:50 Tue 1-3:50-7-9:50 Wed-Thu 7-9:50
Ésimésac (G) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:20

Ciné-starz
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest

Activité paranormale 4 (13+) Fri-Sun 5:40-8:45 Mon-Thu 5:35-9
Hotel Transylvanie (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:40-3:20-7:25 Mon-Thu 12-1:40-3:20-7
L'enlèvement 2 (13+) Fri-Sun 5:20-7 Mon-Thu 5:35-9 L'ère de glace: La dérive des continents (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:45-3:25-6:45 Mon-Thu 12-3:30
Les mots (G) Fri-Sun 2-7:20-9:05 Mon-Thu 1:40-5:10-7-8:45
La note parfaite (G) Fri-Sun 12-3:40 Mon-Thu 12-5 Rebelle (13+) Fri-Sun 12-1:45-3:30 Silent Hill: Révélation (STC) Fri-Sun 5:05-8:30 Mon-Thu 2-3:45-7:15
Vol (13+) Fri-Sun 5-9:05 Mon-Thu 1:40-6-8:25

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120 boul. de l'Hôpital

007: Skyfall (13+) Fri 3:35-6:30-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:25 Mon 6:30-9:25 Tue 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:25 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:25 Le hobbit : Un voyage inattendu 3D (G) Fri 4:15-5-8-8:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-1:15-4:15-5-8-8:45 Mon 8-8:45 Tue 12:30-1:15-4:15-5-8-8:45 Wed-Thu 8-8:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G) Fri 4:30-8:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:30-8:15 Mon 8:15 Tue 12:45-4:30-8:15 Wed-Thu 8:15 L'amour en jeu (G) Fri-Sun 3:20-7:20-9:50 Mon 7:20-9:50 Tue 3:20-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:50
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 3-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-6:40-9:20 Mon 6:40-9:20 Tue 12:15-3-6:40-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:20
Le réveil des gardiens (G) Fri 3:10-7 Sat-Sun 1-3:10-7 Mon 7 Tue 1-3:10-7 Wed-Thu 7 La saga Twilight: Révélation - partie 2 (STC) Fri 4-7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7:15-9:45 Mon 7:15-9:45 Tue 1:20-4-7:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:45
Skyfall (13+) Fri-Thu 9
Ésimésac (G) Fri 3:40-7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:40-7:05-9:40 Mon 7:05-9:40 Tue 1:05-3:40-7:05-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:40

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115 boul. du Plateau,

007: Skyfall (13+) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Mon 4:15-7:20-10:25 Tue 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:20-10:25
La course au jouet (STC) Sat 11
The Guilt Trip (STC) Wed-Thu 3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35
Le hobbit : Un voyage inattendu (G) Fri-Sat 12-3:45-7:30-11:15 Sun 12-3:45-7:30 Mon 4:20-8 Tue 12:40-4:20-8 Wed-Thu 4:20-8 Le hobbit : Un voyage inattendu 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:15-3-6:45-10:30 Mon 2:45-6:30-10:10 Tue 11:15-3-6:45-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:45-6:30-10:10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (G) Fri 2-5:50-9:30 Sat 10:50-2:45-5:50-9:30 Sun 2-5:50-9:30 Mon 5:15-9 Tue 1:30-5:15-9 Wed-Thu 5:15-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon 3-6:45-10:25 Tue 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Wed-Thu 3-6:45-10:25
Jingle All the Way (STC) Sat 11
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35 Mon 4:10-7:10-10:10 Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Wed 4:10-10:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Lincoln (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Mon 3:45-7-10:15 Tue 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Wed-Thu 3:45-7-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 12:55 Les mondes de Ralph (STC) Fri 11:40-2:20-5-7:30-10:10 Sat 11:40-7:30-10:10 Sun 11:40-2:20-5-7:30-10:10 Mon 2:20-5-7:30-10:10 Tue 11:40-2:20-5-7:30-10:10 Monstres, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 2:35-5-7:30-10:10
Playing for Keeps (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Tue 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30 Mon 4:40-7:05-9:30 Tue 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:05-9:30
Le réveil des gardiens (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Tue 12:10 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:35-10
Le réveil des gardiens 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:40-5:10-7:35-10
La saga Twilight: Révélation - partie 2 (STC) Fri 11:45-2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Sat 2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Sun 11:45-2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Mon 2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Tue 11:45-2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Wed-Thu 2:30-5:15-8-10:45 Skyfall (13+) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Mon 3:55-7-10:05 Tue 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Wed-Thu 3:55-7-10:05
Thérèse Desqueyroux (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20 Mon 4:10-6:45-9:20 Tue 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri-Sun 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:40-10:25 Mon 4:55-7:40-10:25 Tue 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 4:55-7:40-10:25
Ésimésac (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15

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The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 5:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-5:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-9:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 11-2:30-6:15-10 Mon-Wed 6:30-10:10 Thu 8
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 7:05-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:05-10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 12:55 Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 7:35-10 Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat-Sun 11:40-2:10 Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 5-7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 4:40-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45 Skyfall (PG) Fri 7-10:30 Sat 12:20-7-10:30 Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:30 Mon 7-10:10 Tue-Thu 7-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 4:55-7:30-10:20 Sat 4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:20 Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Sat-Sun 11:50-2:25 Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 5-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 7:35-10:05

Gloucester

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Anna Karenina (14A) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:25-7:25-10:20 Thu 1:20-4:25-10:20
The Guilt Trip (PG) Wed-Thu 12:55-3:25-5:45-8:25-10:55
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2-3:45-5:50-7:30-9:30-11:15 Mon 12-2-3:45-5:50-7:30-9:30-11 Tue 12-2-3:45-5:50-7:30-9:30-11:15 Wed-Thu 12-2-3:45-5:50-7:30-9:30-11
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45-3:20-7-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:40-4:20-8 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon-Thu 3-6:45-10:25 Fri-Sun 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 Mon 1-5-9 Tue 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 1-5-9
Jingle All the Way (STC) Sat 11
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri 12:45-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:40 Sat 8:15-10:40 Sun 12:45-3:35-5:55-8:15 Mon-Tue 12:45-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:40
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:35-10:35
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:15-10:30 The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 1:30-4-7:05-9:20 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Thu 7:30
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sun 11:20-1:45-4:20-7:20-9:50 Mon 1:45-4:20-7:20-9:50 Tue 11:20-1:45-4:20-7:20-9:50 Wed 1:45-4:20-9:50 Thu 1:45-4:20-7:20-9:50
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 12:55-3:25-5:45-8:25-10:55 Sat 8:25-10:55 Sun 12:55-3:25-5:45-10:55 Mon 12:55-3:25 Tue 12:55-3:25-5:45-8:25-10:55
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 11:15 Mon 1:30 Tue 11:15 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:40
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7:05-9:20 Mon 4-7:05-9:20 Tue 1:30-4-7:05-9:20
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 11:10-2:10-5:05-7:45-10:25 Mon 2:10-5:05-7:45-10:25 Tue 11:10-2:10-5:05-7:45-10:25 Wed-Thu 2:10-5:05-7:45-10:25
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-12:50-3:40-4:10-7:10-7:40-10:30-11
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 11:05-11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Sat 11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Sun 11:05-11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Mon 2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Tue 11:05-11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Wed-Thu 2:20-5:10-8-10:50
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 8

Orleans

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The Guilt Trip (PG) , , Wed-Thu 4:20-7-9:45 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) , , Fri-Sun 12-4-9 , , Mon 4-9 , , Tue 12-4-9 , , Wed-Thu 4-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) , Fri-Sun 12:30-4:30-8:30 , Mon 4:30-8:30 , Tue 12:30-4:30-8:30 , Wed-Thu 4:30-8:30 , Fri-Sun 11:30-2-3:30-6-7:30-10 , Mon 3:30-6-7:30-10 , Tue 11:30-2-3:30-6-7:30-10 , Wed-Thu 3:30-6-7:30-10
Life of Pi (PG) , Fri-Sun 12:15 , Tue 12:15
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 3:15-6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:15-6:20-9:30
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) , Wed-Thu 3:10-6:30-9:15 Playing for Keeps (PG) , Fri-Tue 6:15-9:20 , Wed-Thu 9:20
Rise of the Guardians (G) , Fri-Sun 12:50 , Mon 4:10 , Tue 12:50 , Wed-Thu 4:10-6:45 Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:10-6:45-9:15 Mon 6:45-9:15 Tue 4:10-6:45-9:15
Le réveil des gardiens (G) , Fri-Sun 11:40-2:45 , Mon 3:10 , Tue 11:40-2:45
Skyfall (PG) , Fri-Sun 11:50-3-8-9:45 , Mon 3-8-9:45 , Tue 11:50-3-8-9:45 , Wed-Thu 3-8
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) , Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-7:15-10:10 , Mon 3:45-7:15-10:10 , Tue 12:40-3:45-7:15-10:10 , Wed-Thu 3:45-7:15-10:10
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) , Fri-Sun 1-4:20-7 , Mon 4:20-7 , Tue 1-4:20-7

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The Hollywood Foreign Press shows its love for Honest Abe

Golden Globe noms. Lincoln grabs seven nods, while in TV, Homeland and Downton Abbey come out as favourites

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained, starring Christoph Waltz and Jaime Foxx, grabbed a number of nominations. HANDOUT

Steven Spielberg's Lincoln leads this year's Golden Globe Awards nominations, placing in seven categories including best drama, with nods for Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner as well as actors Daniel Day-Lewis, Tommy Lee Jones and Sally Field, and composer John Williams.

Other favourites for the Hollywood Foreign Press include Ben Affleck's Argo, Kathryn Bigelow's Zero Dark Thirty and Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained, all of which received best drama and best director nods, as well as other nominations.

On the television side, new series Nashville, Smash and the Newsroom earned accolades, while longtime awards favourite Mad Men failed to make the best television drama list for the first time. Critical favourites Homeland and Downton Abbey earned four and three nominations each, respectively, and are expected to be favourites when the awards are handed out.

Biggest surprises

The Hollywood Foreign Press clearly has a thing for Nicole Kidman, nominating the actress in both film and TV categories. Her nod for Lee Daniels' The Paperboy may be the most controversial this year, as the film was widely panned coming out of the Cannes Film Festival. Also a surprise? Multiple nominations for Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, an early 2012 film with little to know awards campaign. Stars Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt earned acting nods while the film made the best musical or comedy list.

Biggest snubs

While Tom Hooper's presumed awards season juggernaut Les Miserables earned nods for best musical or comedy, plus best actor Hugh Jackman and supporting actress Anne Hathaway, Hooper himself didn't make the best director list. And despite turning in great performances in multiple films, Matthew McConaughey came up empty handed at the HFPA. Other notable snubs include Robert DeNiro for Silver Linings Playbook — though best supporting actor is the tightest race this year — and indie darling Beasts of the Southern Wild, which didn't receive a single nomination.

The 70th annual Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live January 13, hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who are nominated against each other in the best actress in a television comedy category.

Some of the nominations

- **Best motion picture — drama.** Argo, Django Unchained, Life of Pi, Lincoln, Zero Dark Thirty
- **Best motion picture — musical or comedy.** Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Les Miserables, Moonrise Kingdom, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, Silver Linings Playbook
- **Best director.** Ben Affleck, Argo; Kathryn Bigelow, Zero Dark Thirty; Ang Lee, Life of Pi; Steven Spielberg, Lincoln; Quentin Tarantino, Django Unchained
- **Best actor, motion picture drama.** Daniel Day-Lewis, Lincoln; Richard Gere, Arbitrage; John Hawkes, The Sessions; Joaquin Phoenix, The Master; Denzel Washington, Flight
- **Best actress, motion picture drama.** Marion Cotillard, Rust and Bone; Jessica Chastain, Zero Dark Thirty; Helen Mirren, Hitchcock; Naomi Watts, The Impossible; Rachel Weisz, The Deep Blue Sea
- **Best actor, motion picture musical or comedy.** Jack Black, Bernie; Bradley Cooper, Silver Linings Playbook; Hugh Jackman, Les Miserables; Ewan McGregor, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen; Bill Murray, High Park on Hudson
- **Best actress, motion picture musical or comedy.** Emily Blunt, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, Judi Dench, Best Exotic Marigold Hotel; Jennifer Lawrence, Silver Linings Playbook; Maggie Smith, Best Exotic Marigold Hotel; Meryl Streep, Hope Springs
- **Best drama series.** Breaking Bad, Boardwalk Empire, Downton Abbey, Homeland, The Newsroom
- **Best comedy series.** The Big Bang Theory, Episodes, Girls, Modern Family, Smash

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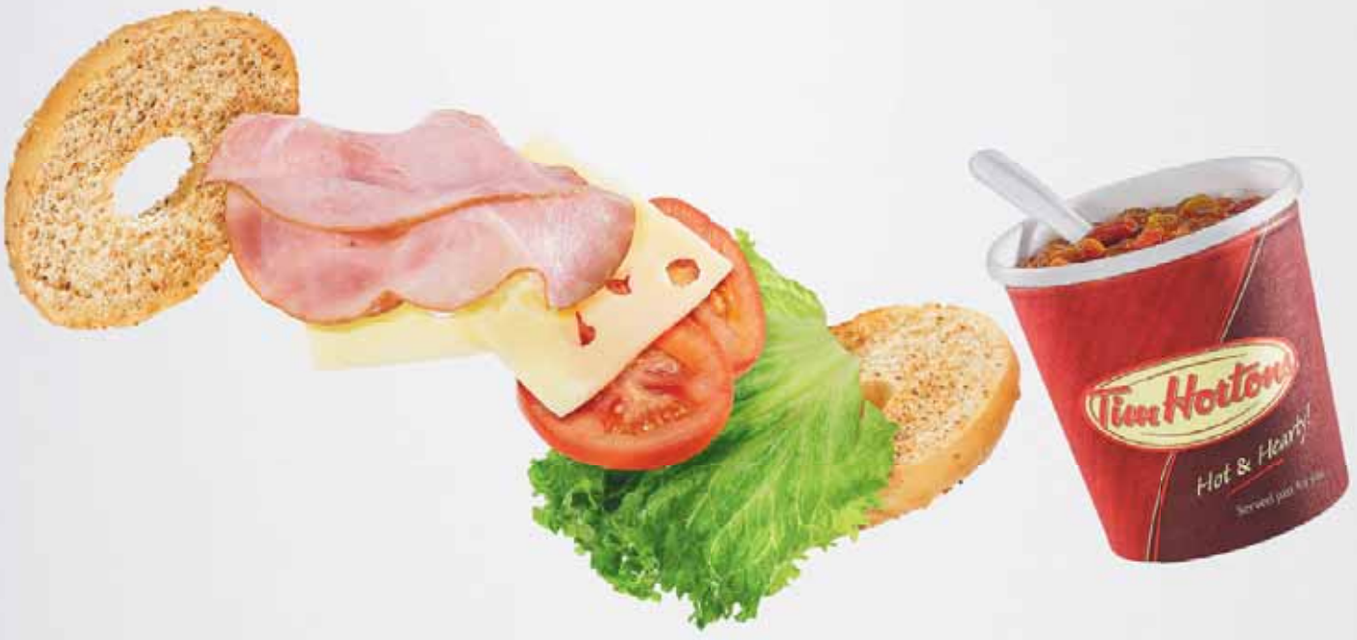

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The Horses of McBride airs Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. ET/PT on CTV. HANDOUT

Movie tells real-life rescue of horses from B.C. mountain

The Horses of McBride. Snowmobilers worked tirelessly for four days to save the animals

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

Just before Christmas in 2008, Toni Jeck was faced with a tough decision. Armed with some hay and a shotgun, she was tasked with deciding the fate of two starving horses her snowmobiling brother had found trapped in two-metre deep snow on the side of Mount Renshaw, near McBride, B.C.

Despite finding the horses covered in bald patches and severely underweight, Jeck was convinced they could survive, if only she could get them off the mountain.

What followed was a four-day ordeal that warmed the hearts of Canadians as they watched a group of snowmobilers dig a trench more than a kilometre long, in minus 30 degree Celsius temperatures to free the horses, who — it was later discovered — had been abandoned there in the fall by a man on a hunting trip.

The story of the snowmobilers who could and the horses with the will to survive wasn't forgotten.

On Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. (ET/PT), CTV presents The Horses of McBride, starring Aidan Quinn, a TV movie based on the events of four years ago.

Actress Mackenzie Porter, who portrays Jeck in the movie, says she has trouble wrapping her head around the strength and willpower it must have taken to keep digging in sub-zero temperatures.

"I can't imagine it. Just the little amount of work we were doing to portray this story on film was exhausting. And I experienced nothing compared to what the Jeck family actually experienced," she says.

Filming for The Horses of McBride took place in the Kananaskis Valley, Alta., which mimicked some of the deep snow conditions the real rescuers faced. "I did a lot of shoveling, luckily I only had to do it when the camera was rolling" says Porter, laughing. "I got an amazing workout."

While the shoveling may have been tough for Porter, the work with the horses came naturally to the actress, who grew up on a ranch near Medicine Hat, Alta., and rode with her sister and dad.

Aside from horsemanship skills, Porter was also able to exercise her acting abilities alongside seasoned veteran Quinn, whose past films include Legends of the Fall.

"I'm a huge fan of his so I was excited when I heard he was on board for this film. He was just really grounded," she says. "The first day I met him he invited me to dinner to rehearse and just build that relationship with him. He's just this amazing person."

Rescued

Horses healthy and happy

The real horses — Belle and Sundance — are now healthy and happy living in adoptive homes. As such, the film crew had to find two equines that looked starving and unhealthy. Enter Lady and Slim, two emaciated horses from Alberta and British Columbia. As the filming went on, the wranglers involved were able to put weight back on these horses. Eventually, Lady was adopted by a couple who worked on the film, while Slim, once at a healthier weight, was returned to his original owner.

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TV picks

All the Christmas specials you can handle: This week's TV picks

Back-to-back holiday specials Friday on Global start with Hoops & Yoyo Ruin Christmas. On Christmas Eve, Hoops, Yoyo and their friend, Piddles, disrupt the time-space continuum after sneaking into Santa's sleigh. Then, The Elf on the Shelf: An Elf's Story centres on an elf named Chippey who tries to help a young boy who is struggling to believe in the magic of Christmas. **(Global)**

Christmas movie classics abound on the dial Friday, with the Bing Crosby-Danny Kaye musical White Christmas sure to put you in a festive mood over on AMC. The 1954 feel-good romp is chock full of everything magical about the season: a winter wonderland, infectious tunes and a bit of romance. Over on CBC, there's Miracle on 34th Street for anyone doubting Santa's existence. An adwoman's lawyer boyfriend tries to prove that Macy's Santa Claus is the real thing.

Comic veteran Martin Short drops by his old New York stomping grounds when he hosts Saturday Night Live.

The musical performer is no slouch by the way; it's music icon Sir Paul McCartney. **(Global, NBC)**

Two animated classics abound with seasonal cheer and a little magic to inspire holiday grinches on Saturday. Tykes both naughty and nice would do well to tune into Santa Claus is Comin' To Town over on CTV, where a mailman explains why Santa has whiskers, lives at the North Pole and brings presents once a year. Meanwhile, The Legend of Frosty the Snowman unfolds over on YTV, where a new chapter in the saga revisits Frosty many years after he shouts out his first "Happy Birthday!" **(YTV)**

And then you have National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation on Sunday. By turns cheesy, garish and grating, it's also sweetly sentimental and a fun guilty pleasure. Who doesn't find Christmas

Chevy Chase stars as head of the Griswold family in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.
HANDOUT

light electrocutions hilarious? As head of the Griswold family, Chevy Chase offers plenty of pratfalls while Randy Quaid co-stars as a dickey-wearing country cousin with a little too much holiday spirit. **(CBC)**

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Songs take spotlight in TV drama Nashville

ABC drama. Tunes on Music City show has sold more than 800,000 digital singles

Buddy Miller says these days it's not unusual for duet partners to cut their love songs syllable by syllable while never even seeing each other: "In this town especially that's what happens."

That's why the veteran Music City producer and band leader was so astounded by what he witnessed in the early days of working on the music for the television show Nashville. He was nervous about his session with actors Clare Bowen and Sam Palladio because their song If I Didn't Know Better, written by John Paul White of The Civil Wars and Arum Rae, was challenging and served as a pivotal moment in the pilot. It had to be right, and that depended on the young actors being able to pull it off.

"They didn't know they didn't have to memorize the song or look each other in the eyes when you're singing a love song," Miller said. "For those two who'd never sung in a studio before to go in there, look each other in the eyes with the song memorized and sing the song, I had goose bumps and so did everybody else in the room. ... That had a whole lot more soul in it than most of the stuff that gets cut in this town."

The music of Nashville has been as much a star on the hour-long ABC drama as Connie Britton, Hayden Panettiere, Charles Esten, Jonathan Jackson, Bowen and Palladio. Yes, each really does sing his or her own part, and so far fans seem to be responding, buying more than 800,000 digital singles.

Panettiere's Telescope has even cracked top 40 at country radio.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australian actress and singer Clare Bowen, who stars as Scarlett O'Connor in the ABC drama series Nashville, sings her own songs.
DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"They didn't know they didn't have to memorize the song."
Buddy Miller

Forget about that Jingle Bell Rock

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Tired of the same old Christmas songs? Here are two brand new tracks

Burn the Flames/Mark Lanegan

The former Screaming Trees frontman has a lo-fi solo EP entitled Dark Mark Does Christmas. Correct on all counts.

1

Angels Without Wings/The Mahones

A fun Christmas song from the new album, Angels & Devils. Good for singing at the pub after a few pints.

2

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

30 Rock's Jenna films final fiery tantrum

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Much to 30 Rock fans' chagrin, Jane Krakowski, a.k.a. Jenna on the hit show, is getting a little break for the holiday season now that the sitcom is currently filming their last-ever episode.

"It's a very busy time right now between wrapping up 30 Rock and being a relatively new mom, and we're having Christmas dinner at our house this year for the first time," she says at an event for Bank of America, which raised money for Feeding America.

"Hopefully it'll be good; we wanted to sort of bring the joy of Christmas to our home, so our whole family is coming over. It should be a nice day and a nice way to sort of start a new chapter with 30 Rock ending."

"Yesterday we shot Jenna's last temper tantrum; it was fantastic. They told me to go as far as I wanted to go and the entire crew applauded when it was over because everyone knew it was the last time Jenna would be insulting people and throwing things.

"It was very fun — incredibly satisfying."

Sean Penn

Emotional Penn delivers heartbreaking insight into romantic past

Two years after his divorce from Robin Wright, Sean Penn is opening up about their marriage — and his entire romantic history. "There is no shame in saying that we all want to be loved by someone. As I look back over my life in romance, I don't feel I've ever had that," he tells Esquire magazine. And while he doesn't mention Wright by name, he does discuss their split. "When you get divorced, all the truths come out, you sit there and go, 'What the f— was I doing? What was I doing believing that this person was invested in this way?'" he says. "Which is a fantastically strong humiliation in the best sense. It can make somebody very bitter and very hard and closed off, but I find it does the opposite to me."

Quoted

"There is no shame in saying that we all want to be loved by someone."

Sean Penn

Gabriel Aubry

Aubry in the clear over brawl with Martinez

Gabriel Aubry won't be facing criminal charges following his Thanksgiving day brawl with Olivier Martinez, the fiancé of ex-girlfriend Halle Berry, according to TMZ. In lieu of a formal hearing, the Los Angeles City Attorney is expected to hold an informal office meeting to discuss the altercation with Aubry, but the French-Canadian model won't have to worry about any further repercussions.

Twitter

@ElizabethBanks
Snark all you want hipsters, Billy Joel sounds great. The man's still got it.

@IJasonAlexander
Having a blast killing my poker pals at Brad Garrett's house. One more hand, I won this house.

@iamrashidajones
I love E.T. and still believe he is real.

Renee Zellweger ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Zellweger, it seems, has a new man in her life

Renee Zellweger apparently has a new man in her life. The actress was spotted at LAX airport smooching musician and producer Doyle Bramhall, who previously dated Sheryl Crow, according to Us Weekly. "They went to college together," a source says of the new couple. "It's going really well." Zellweger was last linked romantically to Bradley Cooper, but they split up in March 2011 after dating for less than two years.

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Home for the holidays with singer Paul Brandt

Christmas traditions. Country superstar shares why this time of the year is special to him and his family

DAN CLAPSON
life@metronews.ca

Taking a break from promoting his new album, Just as I am, Paul Brandt — Canadian country music star, husband and father of two — shares some of his favourite things about the Christmas season.

He also offers a simple recipe that's sure to be a hit at your next holiday party.

What's your favourite part about spending the holidays with your family?
I'm often overwhelmed with gratitude for my family and our relationships during Christmas. Moments when we can just be together, celebrating, singing, eating and giving gifts to each other are so precious to me.

Do you have any family traditions that take place on Christmas Day?
A mandarin orange being in the toe of our Christmas stockings. The orange has to be eaten, and stockings emptied, before we can move on to the presents.

Are you pretty hands-on in the kitchen while making the holiday dinner?
I like being hands-on, but my mom and mother-in-law do the majority of the work for the big family dinners. I will happily jump in and carve the turkey... and maybe reserve a choice piece or two for myself as payment for my services.

Do people ever request an impromptu mini-Christmas concert in December? Do you have a favourite holiday song to sing?
I am often asked to sing around Christmas ... and I don't know why, but one of my favourites to sing has always been I'll Be Home For Christmas. Probably one of the most depressing Christmas songs ever, but I love crooning it.

Paul Brandt loves the holiday spirit. Fruit Cake? Not so much. SUBMITTED

Fruitcake. Love it or hate it?
Is "loathe" too strong a word?

What is the one thing in your life that really makes the holidays complete?
For me, the Christmas season is all about my faith. This faith perspective during the holidays reminds me to go out of my way to think about and help others, and when I do, I feel like the holidays really come together for me in a special and always memorable way.

Paul's Pickled Shrimp

When Paul Brandt has guests during the holiday season, he serves up this easy to make Pickled Shrimp appetizer.

Ingredients

- 1-2 bags cooked frozen shrimp
- onions, sliced thinly
- several bay leaves
- 1 cup olive oil
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 3 tbsp capers with juice
- 2 1/2 tsp celery deed
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 drops Tabasco sauce
- Juice of 2 lemons

1. Thaw shrimp under cool water and drain. Layer shrimp, onion and bay leaves in shallow dish. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over shrimp. Cover and chill 24 hours. **RECIPE BY PAUL BRANDT**

Liquid Assets

Glass full of holiday spirit

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Though it took a few bottles of bubbly and repeat viewings of A Charlie Brown Christmas, I've finally found my holiday spirit.

While I'm sure some of you will have an alternative to turkey as the star of your Xmas meal, the big bird is it for the majority of us, so this week I'm focusing on white wines to match.

Roast turkey never makes an appearance in the dining room alone. And it's all of the side dishes (like cranberry sauce, herbaceous stuffing and sweet potatoes) that have the greatest chance of clashing with your wine choice.

An off-dry white made with the peppery gewürztraminer grape or medium-dry riesling grape from any country is a great pick. So is one made with sauvignon blanc from France.

I'm partial to a lightly oaked chardonnay. The majority of white French Burgundy wines fit the bill, as do many chards from Australia, Chile, Canada and California.

The 2010 J. Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay ($18.95 - $22.99) used to be an oak bomb, but recent vintages have seen it transformed into a mouth full of tropical fruit with butterscotch aromatics and a subtle, turkey-friendly tone of wood.

Next week, the reds. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.

MIX OF SIX
Samantha Everts
ottawa@metronews.ca

Hollerado

Manotick's own Hollerado return to Ritual playing their Clash-influenced rock riffs with friends Tokyo Police Club. With millions of Youtube views for their single Americanarama, the band is fresh off a tour with Passion Pit and prepping for the release of their third album in February 2013. Catch those new songs Friday night. Dec.14. Hollerado.com

Vintage Village of Lights

The city of Cumberland gets set aglow at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum with a 20-foot tree and over 30,000 lights on the surrounding heritage buildings. The beautiful sight gets helped out with yuletide Dickens-style carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides and the jolly man in red himself. December 1-23. Ottawa.ca/museums

Taboo Eats

Taboo Eats is looking for the best amateur foodies the city has by pitting neighbourhood chefs' best recipes against each other to a hungry audience who will judge their favourites. The free event is a fundraiser for the Ottawa Food Bank with Series One featuring Wellington West and Centretown. Dec. 15. Tabooeats.com

It's a Wonderful Life

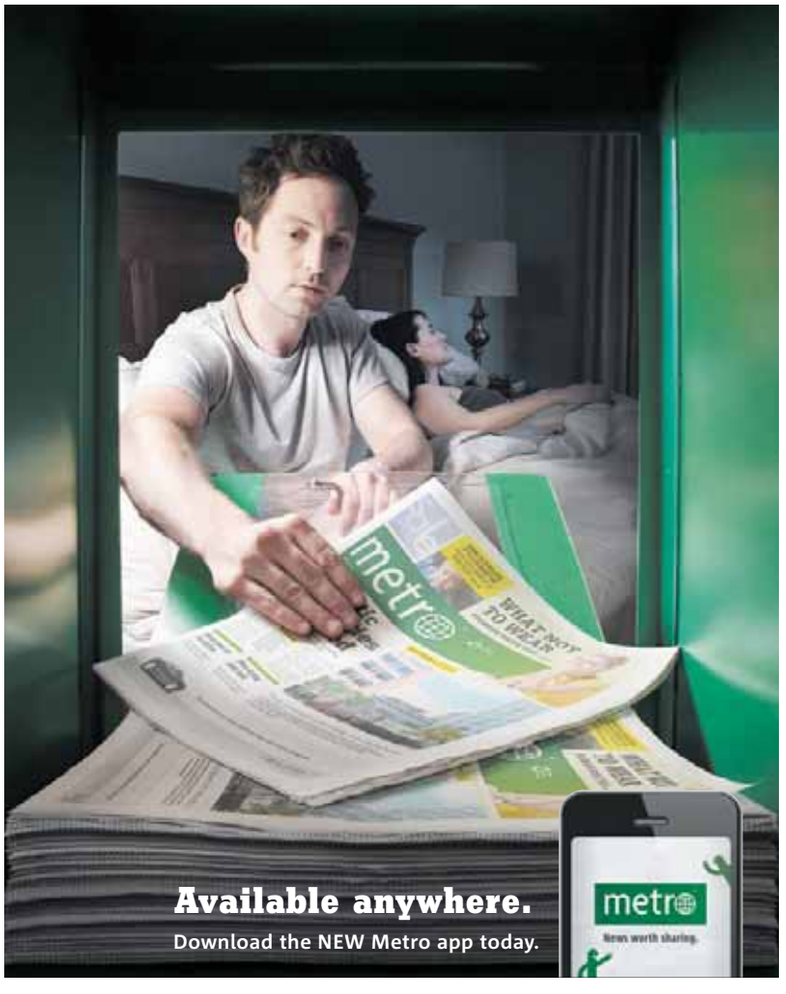
Widely recognized as one of the greatest films of all time, the holiday story of the down on his luck George Bailey has united audiences across the globe as the perfect Christmas tale. Pack some candy canes to go with your popcorn and plunk yourself down at the Mayfair Theatre. Dec. 15-16. Mayfairtheatre.ca

How the Grinch Spied Christmas

If you're curious like Cindy Lou Who on how exactly the Grinch was able to be so sneaky, head over to the Diefenbunker Cold War Museum and discover how you needn't have a heart three sizes too small to be a successful spy. This special children's event runs over the weekend. Dec. 15-16. Diefenbunker.ca

Builders: National Art Gallery

When artists create, they essentially are building something. The National Art Gallery of Canada is celebrating a selection of more than 100 new acquisitions from Canadian artists in their new contemporary exhibit featuring established artists along with emerging artists. Runs until Jan. 20. Gallery.ca



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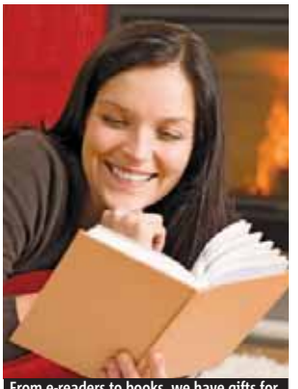

From e-readers to books, we have gifts for book-lovers covered — PAGES 36, 40, 42, 45

All her favourite things, from sparkly gifts to outerwear — PAGES 38, 44

Yummy Mummy Club tips for parents on how to pick the top toys — PAGE 47

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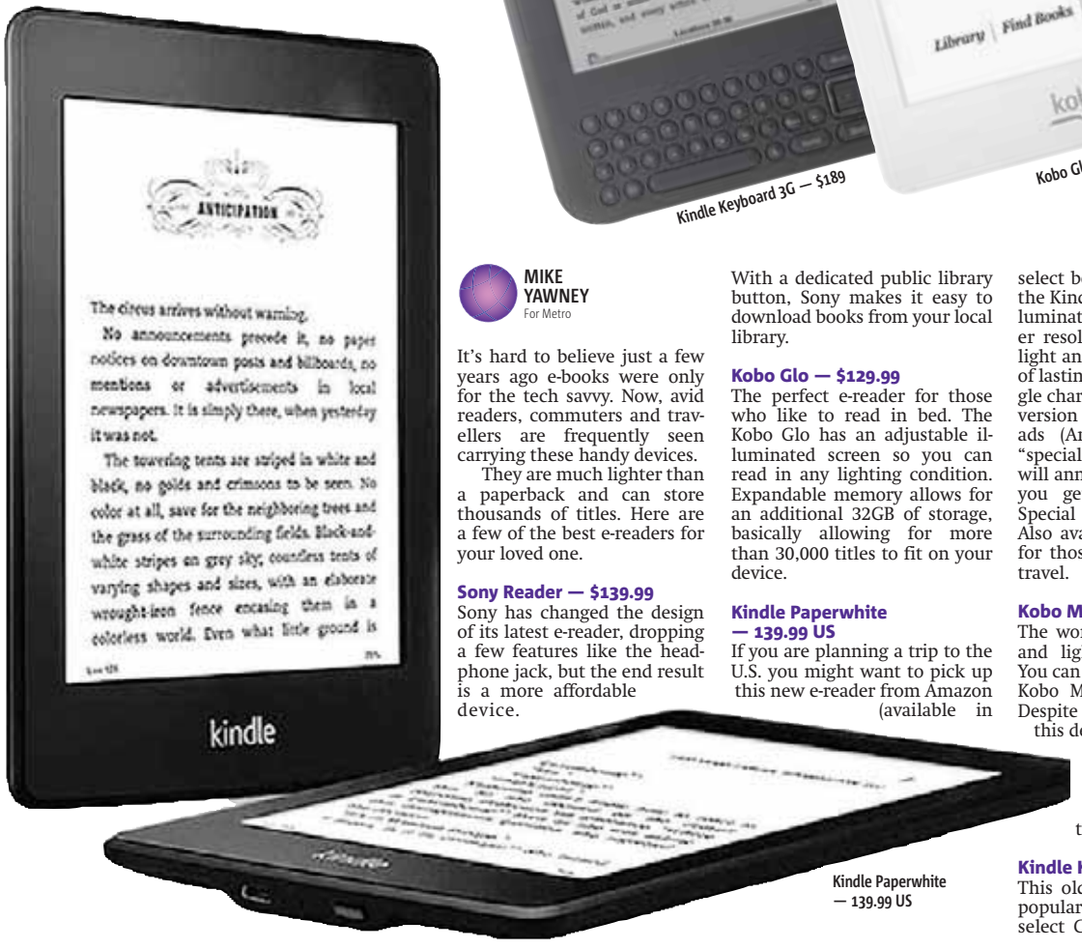
ANTICIPATION
The circus arrives without warning.
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The towering tents are striped in white and black, no golds and crimsons to be seen. No color at all, save for the neighboring trees and the grass of the surrounding fields. Black-and-white stripes on grey sky; countless tents of varying shapes and sizes, with an elaborate wrought-iron fence encasing them in a colorless world. Even what little ground is
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MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

It's hard to believe just a few years ago e-books were only for the tech savvy. Now, avid readers, commuters and travellers are frequently seen carrying these handy devices.

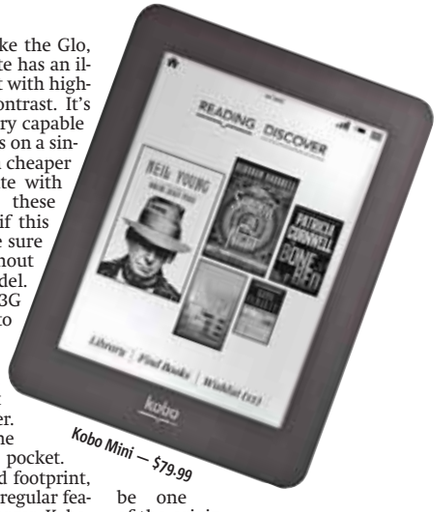
They are much lighter than a paperback and can store thousands of titles. Here are a few of the best e-readers for your loved one.

Sony Reader — $139.99
Sony has changed the design of its latest e-reader, dropping a few features like the headphone jack, but the end result is a more affordable device.

With a dedicated public library button, Sony makes it easy to download books from your local library.

Kobo Glo — $129.99
The perfect e-reader for those who like to read in bed. The Kobo Glo has an adjustable illuminated screen so you can read in any lighting condition. Expandable memory allows for an additional 32GB of storage, basically allowing for more than 30,000 titles to fit on your device.

Kindle Paperwhite — 139.99 US
If you are planning a trip to the U.S. you might want to pick up this new e-reader from Amazon (available in select box stores). Like the Glo, the Kindle Paperwhite has an illuminated screen but with higher resolution and contrast. It's light and has a battery capable of lasting eight weeks on a single charge. There is a cheaper version of Paperwhite with ads (Amazon calls these "special offers"), so if this will annoy you make sure you get the "Without Special Offers" model. Also available with 3G for those who like to travel.



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Kobo Mini — $79.99
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Kindle Keyboard 3G — $189
This older model of Amazon's popular e-reader is available in select Canadian stores. It may be one of the originals, but it remains a favourite for those who like downloading on the go. The 3G connectivity means you can download new titles anywhere you have cell reception at no additional charge. The built-in keyboard is great for those who hate touch-screen typing.

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Earrings by George, $5, available at Walmart, walmart.ca.

Sparkly Starbust Earrings, $12, available at RW&CO, rw-co.com.

Crystalline Necklace, $85, available at Banana Republic, bananarepublic.ca

Tiffany Gallery Watch In Stainless Steel On A Black Leather Strap, $3,500, available at Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com.

Cuffs by George, $12, available at Walmart, walmart.ca.

Omega James Bond Skyfall Seamaster Ladies Watch, available at omegawatches.com.

Noble Diamond Necklace Set In Platinum, $7.15 million, available at Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com.

Fabric Metal Glass Necklace, $18, available at Reitmans, reitmans.com.

Enchant Scroll Band Ring With Diamonds In Platinum, $10,500, available at Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com.

Filigree Burst Ring, $12.99, available at most Payless stores, payless.com.

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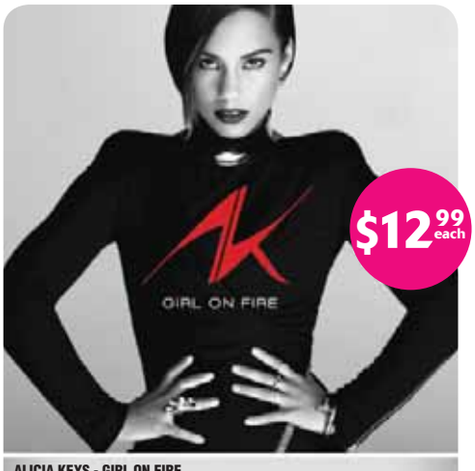

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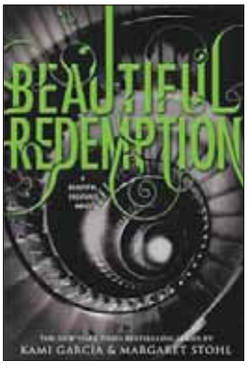
Best bets for teenaged book-lovers

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

Here, a selection of the best books to leave under the Christmas tree, or in a stocking, for those hard-to-buy-for teens in your life this holiday season.

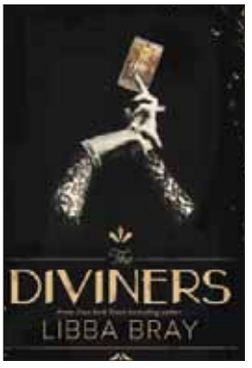
All of the books are also available as eBooks.



Beautiful Redemption

Kami Garcia, $21, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, Hardcover.

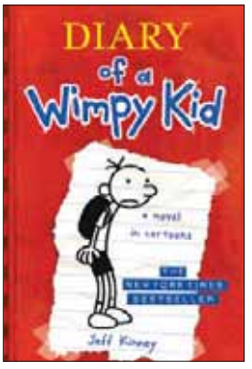
The fourth and final book in the Beautiful Creatures series is filled with plot twists that'll keep teen readers turning the pages. The book follows the journey of small-town teen Ethan Wate who falls in love with Lena Duchannes, a girl with supernatural powers that unveil a secretive and cursed side to Ethan's hometown. It's been declared a spellbinding love story.



The Diviners

Libba Bray, $24, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, Hardcover.

This supernatural thriller set in Jazz Age New York centers on Evangeline O'Neill, a 17-year-old from small town Ohio who is sent to live with her uncle in Manhattan. Adventure ensues. This book is the first instalment in a series.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid

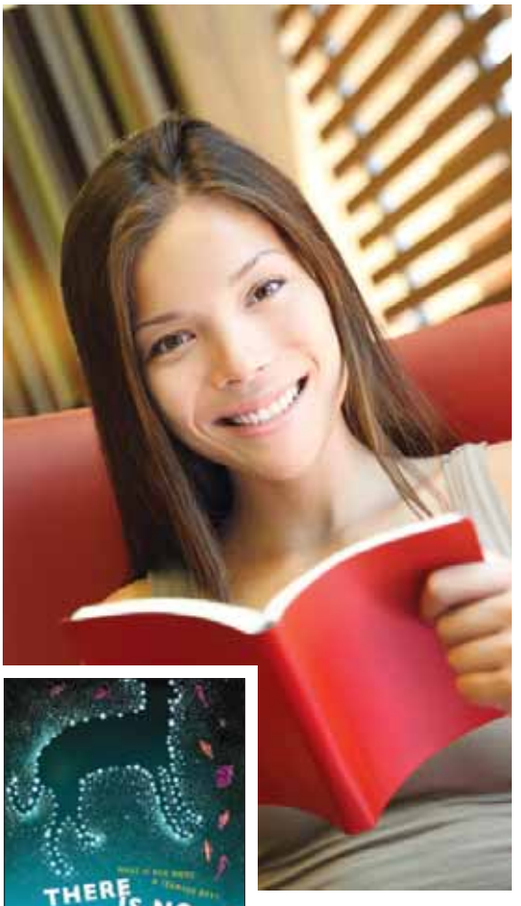
Jeff Kinney, $13, Harry N. Abrams, Hardcover.

The first in a series of innovatively illustrated books of the same name, this realistic fiction novel about a boy named Greg Heffley and his struggles in middle school was named a New York Times bestseller when it was released in hardcover in 2007.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky, $12, MTV Books, Paperback.

A critically acclaimed coming-of-age novel, narrated by "Charlie" — a shy and introverted teen who writes a series of letters to an anonymous person describing various scenes in his life — explores topics of sexuality, introversion, drugs and the awkwardness of adolescence.

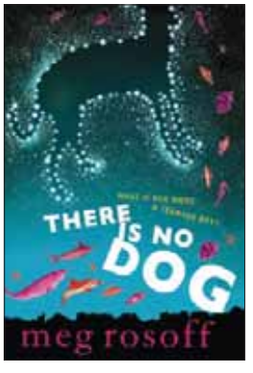


Tilt

Ellen Hopkins, $22, Margaret K. McElderry Books, Hardcover.

A riveting novel from New York Times bestselling author, Ellen Hopkins, follows three teens whose stories are interconnected through their parents' family relationships.

And try these stocking stuffers:



There is no Dog

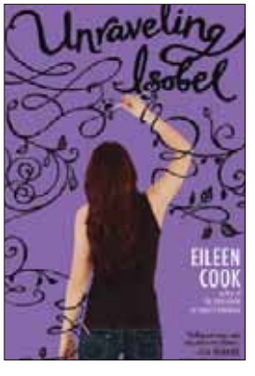
Meg Rosoff, $13, Doubleday Canada, Paperback.

In this darkly funny novel, the protagonist is God, who happens to be a 19-year-old boy living in the present day.

Don't Turn Around

Michelle Gagnon, $20, Harpercollins Publishers, Hardcover.

This is the story of Noa, a 16-year-old who has been a victim of the system since her parents died, who holds the key to a terrible secret and there are those who'd stop at nothing to silence her for good.



Unraveling Isobel

Eileen Cook, $18.99, Simon Pulse, Hardcover.

This darkly comic novel blends paranormal mystery and romance with humour.

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Best books for the ladies on your list

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

A roundup of the top five books that are sure to engross the women on your Christmas 2012 gift list — and two stocking-stuffer suggestions.

The three volume Fifty Shades Trilogy is a New York Times bestseller, and is sure to be a hit with the book-lovers on your list. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

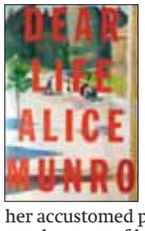
Fifty Shades Trilogy

E. L. James, $47.85, Knopf Doubledy Publishing Group, Paperback Box Set.

The three-volume paperback boxed set of the New York Times #1 bestselling trilogy includes Fifty Shades of Grey, Fifty Shades Darker and Fifty Shades Freed.

Dear Life

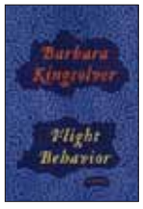
Alice Munro, $32.99, McClelland & Stewart, Hardcover.



The award-winning author illumines the moment a life is shaped — the moment a dream, or sex or a twist of fate turns a person out of her accustomed path and into another way of being — with stories set in the area around Lake Ontario where Munro herself lives.

Flight Behavior

Barbara Kingsolver, $31.99, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., Hardcover.



Set in present-day rural Tennessee, this novel tells to the story of Dellarobia Turnbow, a restless young farmwife who, after years of isolation and boredom, finds her path in life suddenly opening out.

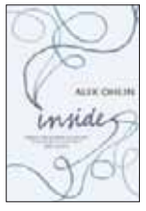
Let's Pretend This Never Happened: (A Mostly True Memoir)

Jenny Lawson, $27.50, Penguin USA, Hardcover.

Blogging sensation Jenny Lawson takes readers on a hilarious journey recalling her bizarre upbringing in Texas, her awkward high school years and her relationship with her long-suffering husband. The premise: the most mortifying moments of our lives are the ones that define us.

Inside

Alix Ohlin, $22.95, House of Anansi Press Inc., Paperback.



Short-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the book follows four compelling and complex characters from Montreal, New York, Hollywood and Rwanda, and explores the dangers and imperatives of making ourselves available to, and responsible for, those dearest to us.

And check out these paperback stocking stuffers:

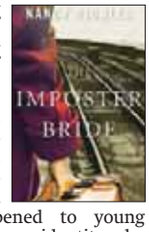
Bossypants

Tina Fey, $17.50, Little, Brown and Company, Paperback.

With frank humour, Fey tells her life story — from her early days as a nerd to landing on Saturday Night Live to becoming a mom. As the book's description says: Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy. (Includes Special, Never-Before-Solicited Opinions on Breastfeeding, Princesses, Photoshop, the Electoral Process and Italian Rum Cake!).

The Imposter Bride

Nancy Richler, $17.99, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., Paperback.



The story centres around Lily Azerov, a young woman arriving in postwar Montreal to meet her betrothed, Sol Kramer. But Lily is not who she claims to be. Who is Lily and what happened to young woman whose identity she stole?

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Campfire Cola
- 1.5 oz Smirnoff Fluffed Marshmallow Flavored Vodka
- 0.5 oz Maraschino Cherry Juice
- 3 oz Cola
- Build ingredients in a highball glass. Stir well. Garnish with a lime.

Caramel Candy Appletini
- 2 oz Smirnoff Kissed Caramel Vodka
- 1.5oz Apple Juice
- 0.25 oz Lemon Juice
- 0.25 oz Simple Syrup
- Combine all ingredients in a shaker with ice. Shake well. Strain into martini glass. Garnish with thin apple slices and a caramel rim.

Creamy Orange
- 2 oz. Smirnoff Whipped Cream Flavored Vodka
- 4 oz. orange soda
- Mix ingredients in a cocktail shaker and serve in a glass with ice. Garnish with an orange wedge.

RECIPES COURTESY OF SMIRNOFF

These also make a lovely hostess gift. NEWS CANADA PHOTO

Recipe. Luscious Shortbread Caramel Chocolate Pecan Squares

These luscious squares are perfect at the holidays when time is tight but you need to bake for guests. They also make a lovely hostess gift. Package them up in a tin with some ribbon and they'll never guess you used cookie mix.

Ingredients:
- 1¼ cups (300 ml) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 pkg (500 g) PC Shortbread Cookie Mix
- 34 individually wrapped caramel squares
- ½ cup (125 ml) 35% whipping cream
- 2½ cups (625 ml) toasted pecan halves
- 2 bars (each 100 g) milk chocolate, chopped

Instructions:

1 Preheat oven to 325 F (160 C). Line rimmed 17 x 11-inch (43 x 28 cm) baking sheet with parchment paper, leaving an overhang on two opposite sides.

2 In large bowl and using electric mixer, beat butter until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add cookie mix; beat on low speed for 30 seconds or until combined. Increase speed to medium; beat for 1½ to 2 minutes or until mixture forms a mass. Dough will be soft. Place dough on prepared baking sheet. Place another sheet of parchment paper on top; using rolling pin, flatten dough evenly on baking sheet. Discard top layer of parchment paper.

3 Bake in centre of oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden. Cool on baking sheet.

4 Meanwhile, unwrap caramels; place in saucepan and cook over medium-low heat for 4 to 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until smooth. Stir in cream. Remove from heat. Immediately pour over warm shortbread base. Tilt baking sheet to evenly distribute caramel. Sprinkle pecans evenly over surface.

5 Place chocolate in microwave safe bowl. Heat in microwave on High for 1 minute or until fully melted. Stir until smooth. Place in zippered plastic bag. Cut tip of one corner off; drizzle chocolate over pecans. Place in refrigerator to set.

6 Cut into squares to serve; store cut squares in refrigerator. Makes 32 servings.

NEWS CANADA

Baby, it's cold outside

Striped Gloves, $34.95, available at Gap, gapcanada.ca.

Taroona Glove, $139, available at EMU Australia, emuaustralia.com.

Chalk Faux Fur Mittens, $25, available at Jacob, jacob.ca.

Preloved Mitt, $25, available at Roots, canada.roots.com.

Helly Hansen Aden Puffy Parka, $299.99, available Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Canada Goose Ladies Kensington Parka, $695, available at Sporting Life, sportinglife.ca.

Aspen Sheepskin Boots, $498, available at Roots, canada.roots.com.

Men's Fur Bomber Hat, $28.99, available at Mark's, marks.com.

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Top holiday reads for him

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

A rundown of the top books that are sure to engross any man on your gift list this Christmas.

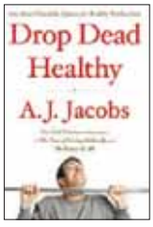
The Racketeer

John Grisham, Random House, $28.95, Paperback.

In this wickedly clever new novel from the master of the legal thriller, judge Raymond Fawcett is found dead in his remote lakeside cabin and one man, Malcolm Bannister, a.k.a. the Racketeer, knows who killed the federal judge and why.

Drop Dead Healthy: One Man's Humble Quest for Bodily Perfection

A.J. Jacobs, Simon & Schuster, $18.99, Paperback.



Jacobs, editor-at-large at Esquire magazine, explores every aspect of the body in this New York Times Bestseller and, over the course of two years, subjects himself to a grueling yet entertaining regimen of exercise, diets and experiments in his quest to makeover his body and become the healthiest person in the world. Part memoir, part adventure, part how-to manual, the book is not only informative and inspiring but a tremendously good laugh.

419

Will Ferguson, Penguin Group Canada, $20, Paperback.

Winner of the 2012 Scotia-Bank Giller Prize, this novel is described as both epic in its sweep and intimate in its portrayal of human endurance. Author Ferguson, an internationally bestselling travel writer, takes readers deep into the labyrinth of lies that is the world's most insidious Internet scam. Lives intersect. Worlds collide and it all begins with a single email: "Dear Sir, I am the daughter of a Nigerian diplomat and I need your help."

Mortality

Christopher Hitchens, McClelland & Stewart, $22.99, Hardcover.

Based on award-winning columnist Hitchens' columns in Vanity Fair that chronicled his year-and-a-half battle with esophageal cancer, Mortality is the writer's most honest and reflective. Throughout the course of his ordeal, which ended with his death in December 2011, Hitchens bravely refused the solace of religion, preferring to confront death with both eyes open.

Cloud Atlas

David Mitchell, Knopf Canada, $24.95, Paperback.

In this captivating 2004 novel (from which the current science fiction drama starring Halle Berry and Tom Hanks was adapted), award-winning British author David Mitchell erases the boundaries of language, genre and time to offer a meditation on humanity's dangerous will to power and where it may lead us through six nested stories spanning centuries and continents.

Whirl Away: Stories

Russell Wangersky, Thomas Allen Publishers, $21.95, Paperback.

Everyone has a particular personal skill that they use to keep their lives moving forward when things suddenly become difficult. This collection of short fiction looks at what happens when people's personal coping skills go awry.

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Hit all the right notes

Soundfreaq Sound Kick — $99.99

Ambiance. Music from these MP3 players and accessories can add to holiday atmosphere

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Music can invigorate, relax, and inspire. It's no wonder so many choose to share the gift of music during the holidays. Here are the best MP3 related gifts you can put under the tree.

iPod Touch — $299 and up
All the features of an iPhone without the actual phone. Apple's iPod Touch remains one of the best MP3 players on the market, probably due to the fact you can do so much with it. Play games, download apps, or video chat with loved ones. The new stylish design and retina screen ensure this will be a hit on Christmas morning.

Samsung Galaxy Player 4.2 — $179.99
A device for those who prefer Android over Apple. The Galaxy Player puts everything you like about Android smartphones into a small portable device minus the monthly fees. Music, apps, camera … it's all here, including FM radio!

Belkin Bluetooth Music Receiver — $49.95
Play music from your Bluetooth-enabled devices through your home stereo or stand-alone speakers — wirelessly. This tiny device will work with any speaker or stereo as long as it has an "aux in" port. Despite its small size, it transmits up to 33 feet away and will remember up to six paired devices.

Monster Inspiration Over-Ear Headphones — $349.99
Premium headphones for the audiophile in your life. These noise-cancelling headphones feature exceptional music production with ultra-comfortable ear cushions for extended wear. Remote and microphone cables come included so you can take calls on your smartphone without missing a beat. You can also swap out the headband for a more personalized look.

Soundfreaq Sound Kick — $99.99
Great sound without breaking the bank. This portable Bluetooth speaker not only gives you seven hours of play on a single charge, it also features a USB port so you can charge your MP3 player or smartphone. Brilliant!

Sony XBA Balanced Armature Sports Earbuds — $99.99
Ideal for those who listen to music while working out. These earbuds are not only sweat-resistant, they are waterproof, meaning you can wash them to ensure they are clean and ready for your next workout. Washing your MP3 player, however, isn't recommended.

SiriusXM Lynx — $299.99
A satellite radio receiver like no other. Listen to SiriusXM in your vehicle or in your home via Wi-Fi. This small, stylish receiver allows you to pause, rewind and record satellite radio, stream to Bluetooth speakers in your home, or play your own MP3s thanks to a built-in memory card slot.
This is also the first satellite radio receiver to feature a high-definition touchscreen.

Clockwise, from top, iPod Touch — $299 and up, SiriusXM Lynx — $299.99, Belkin Bluetooth Music Receiver — $49.95, Sony XBA Balanced Armature Sports Earbuds — $99.99, Samsung Galaxy Player 4.2 — $179.99.

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For the Gluten Intolerant
Delicious and satisfying Gluten Free crackers, cookies and desserts:
Crackers from Enerjive, Mary's Crackers and Glutino; La Maison Cannelle Gluten Free Yule Log, El Peto Christmas Cakes and Cookies, Cookies from Dolci, Strawberry Blond Bakery, and others.

For the Designated Driver
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Tips for toys

RENEE LINDO
YummyMummyClub.ca

As parents, we want to make good decisions on how we spend our money and the value we receive in return, especially when it comes to toys.

A new toy can become "old" very quickly as the toy is no longer interesting or the kids have mastered or outgrown it. A trip to the local toy store, especially over the holidays, can be quite overwhelming for parents — there are thousands of toys available. Here are a few quick tips to keep in mind as you boldly and confidently choose the perfect toys this holiday season.

Toy selection can be overwhelming.
ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Determine the toy's age appropriateness

Every age and every stage of development requires different challenges and support. Evaluate the "fit" for your child in terms of age, maturity, developmental level, and where their interests lie.

Evaluate the educational component/value

Look for toys that teach more than one thing and can be used in several different ways. For example, building blocks can teach ABCs, colours and spatial relations, and are also used to build unlimited structures. Similarly, construction sets allow unlimited creations and activities.

Can the toy grow with your child?

You want toys that have utility across several different age ranges. My baby uses blocks because they are colourful and visually exciting and my eight-year-old uses the same blocks to build forts. I think that's good value for money.

Look for problem-solving opportunities

This is why I love puzzles. The best way for children to learn is with puzzles, and they are fun. Puzzles help to develop the all-important logical and abstract "out-of-box" thinking. Puzzles, sorters and stackers are great options.

Encourage imagination

Creative play is another important consideration. By about three years old, storytelling, dress-up and make-believe are a big part of playtime. These activities help formulate their ideas and build literacy skills.

In a nutshell, you want toys that support and augment the learning process with a high fun factor.

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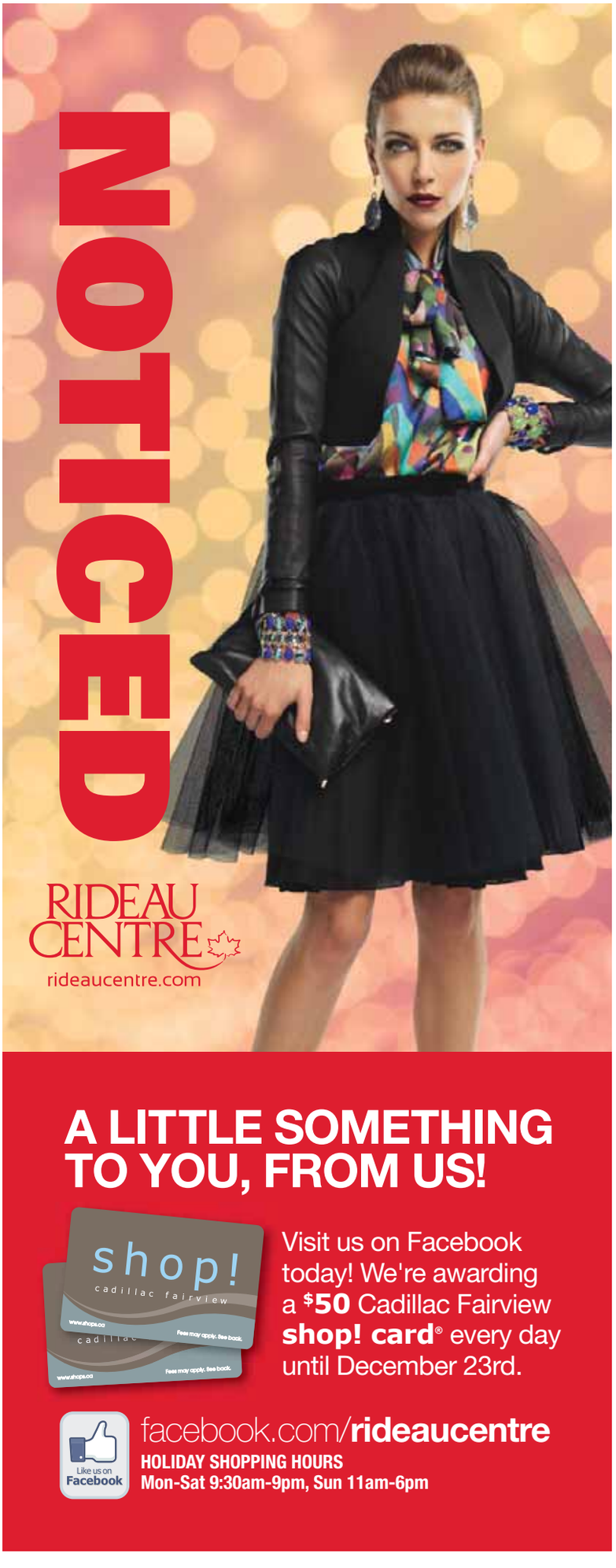
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HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS
Mon-Sat 9:30am-9pm, Sun 11am-6pm

Turn your party into a Hope event

Charity. Hosting a holiday bash? Now you can add a feel-good element to your fun

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Hosting for Hope is a partnership initiative between the Canadian Women's Foundation and HomeSense. CONTRIBUTED

Looking to do something meaningful this time of year?

While you could collect food for your local food bank or sign up to serve a holiday meal to the homeless, you could also turn your annual holiday open house into a Hosting for Hope event.

Hosting for Hope, which is a partnership initiative between the Canadian Women's Foundation and HomeSense, is a national event in which your party, brunch, lunch, tea or any other holiday party this season can be turned into a fundraiser for local women's shelters and violence prevention programs.

"We're hoping that Canadians, who will already be throwing parties this season regardless, could register their party at hostingforhope.ca and then ask the guests to make a donation instead of bringing a bottle of wine," says Tamara Robbins Griffith, public relations manager for Toronto-based HomeSense.

Those hosting the parties register with a $50 contribution to the initiative and from there they can send e-vites, messages and post pictures of their event. In turn, HomeSense will send a $25 thank you gift card to the host.

The site is also home for a number of party planning tips — such as how to dress up your powder room for the event, to how to make your own cake stand, to ideas for a good party playlist, and on the flipside, also allows you to find a shelter near you where your money would go as well as detailing exactly how your donation will be spent.

This is the first year of the initiative and Robbins Griffith hopes it'll prove successful and turn into an annual event.

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible," adds Robbins Griffith. "This is a way to feel really good about the consumerism of the season. We know you're going to spend money throwing your party but wouldn't you rather have your guests make a donation that goes to local women's shelters and violence prevention programs in your community instead of bringing you potentially a hostess gift that you don't need?

"It's not a big ask and it will make people feel really good while having fun."

Get DOUBLE the minutes and data with our NEW Canada-wide promo plans!

Get Canada-wide talk, text and data!
Up to ~~150~~ 300 Anytime Minutes
Up to ~~250~~ 500 MB of Data[1]
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Unlimited 5pm Evenings & Weekends[3]
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Plus more!
For just $45/month

Double minutes and data!

koodo

Hurry! Offer ends December 31, 2012.

Good call

BEST BUY FUTURE SHOP THE MOBILE SHOP Walmart

(1) Roaming rates apply outside of Canada. Data overage rate of 2¢/MB applies. (2) Availability of service will vary by country and is subject to change without notice. Excludes premium messages and subscription-based messages. Picture messaging includes international picture messages sent and received within Canada. Additional data charges apply depending on picture size when roaming in the U.S. and internationally. Picture messaging is supported by a BlackBerry smartphone with SIM card only. (3) Unlimited calling from 5pm to 8am, Monday through Thursday, and from 5pm Friday to 8am Monday.

koodo shop

Ottawa
Bayshore Shopping Centre
Carlingwood Mall
Les Galeries de Hull
Place d'Orléans
Promenades de l'Outaouais
Rideau Centre
St. Laurent Centre

Belleville
Quinte Mall

Brockville
1000 Islands Mall

Cornwall
Cornwall Square

Kingston
Cataraqui Town Centre

FOCUS ON OTHERS THIS SEASON

With Christmas just around the corner, it's pretty much crunch time for getting your shopping done. Have you considered giving "charitable gifts" instead of presents — it's a really good idea.

"It is the time of year for thinking of others and reflecting on what contribution we can make to the world," says Maggie Leithead, president and CEO of Charity Village. "Most of us don't need more in our lives, so giving is a marvellous way to celebrate the holiday ... and you're not walking around with more ties or cheeky coffee mugs."

Owen Charters, CEO of Canada Helps, an online resource for donors and charities, says, "When we are celebrating with gifts and material items and living our lives of abundance, this is a chance to focus on the other side."

Giving a CanadaHelps gift card that supports a charity to a child in your life is a good idea, says Charters, "because it allows them to learn what charity is, why it's important and how to give ... and to think about, after all those great gifts under the tree, what about those who don't have gifts?"

There are so many ways to give. An animal lover, for example, might like to adopt a guide dog puppy and provide funds for its training. A nature lover would appreciate donations to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to help protect habitat for wildlife such as the Canada lynx, grizzly bear or snowy owl. For $50, you can pay for cataract surgery for someone in Nepal through SEVA. Plan Canada offers similar options, from buying baby chicks to help a Third World family support itself to up to $250 for classroom essentials. For $28, you can buy clean water kits for two families through unicef.ca/inspire.

Leithead suggests starting with an organization that is meaningful to you or the person you are giving to — think about whether he or she has an interest in the arts or environment or international development or health care.

– Ylva Van Buuren

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

GIFT OF KINDNESS

In the Spirit of Giving, Charity Village posts random acts of kindness on its website, as well as Facebook and Twitter pages. Here are some ideas:

- Give someone a sprig of thyme — with a promise to help them with anything they want.
- Every time you grocery shop, buy extra canned foods and give them to the food bank.
- Bake cupcakes and take them to your office.
- Give up your seat on public transit or pay someone else's fare.
- At the coffee shop, buy a coffee for someone waiting in line behind you.

HELP A SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD SMILE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WITH STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

For more than 20 years, Starlight Children's Foundation has been transforming the lives of Canadian children with a serious illness or life-altering injury.

What makes Starlight unique is that they are there for the child throughout their journey — from the emergency room to recovery.

While in-hospital, Starlight provides entertainment and distraction from the stress and boredom of hospitalization. When out-of-hospital, Starlight children and their families benefit from the Escapes and Adventure programs — offering time to have fun together and to leave the sick behind.

"Thank you to Starlight for making my battle against cancer easier by giving me fun events to look forward to," says nine-year-old Trev.

"Those moments when some happiness is brought to your child are huge. It gave us strength to see him smile," says Charlene, Trev's mom.

Featured Starlight gifts include:

Abblicious Bear ($20) — The adorable Abbilicious Bear will put comfort right into the arms of a child.

Baby Bundles Fun Kit ($40) —The kit comes with a book, toy, and blanket to comfort babies in the hospital.

Great Escapes Event ($250) — Provide a Starlight child and their family a chance to spend quality time together, away from medical treatments.

Shop today at bookofsmiles.org.

starlight
children's foundation canada
This holiday season, shop our Book of Smiles catalogue
Trev, Age 9
Your gift will bring the pure joy of being a kid back to a seriously ill child.
That's something we can all smile about.
Choose a gift + Send an e-card = Bring a smile
Shop online at
www.BookOfSmiles.org

YOU CAN BRING HOPE AND CHANGE

WITH GIFTS OF HOPE FROM PLAN CANADA

Thinking of giving your child's teachers or daycare employees a more meaningful gift this year?

If so, then maybe charitable gift giving is for you. It was for Ruth Pogue and her husband, Greg McLean, who opted to give their children's teachers Gifts of Hope through Plan Canada rather than yet another coffee mug and gift card. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's ethical gift giving program focused on bringing change and hope to communities in need.

"I was looking for something different to give," says the Calgary-based Pogue. "And I'd just received a Plan Canada catalogue for Gifts of Hope in the mail. I started thumbing through it and there were some great gifts in there for $25 to $30 so I started giving those at Christmastime to teachers."

For Pogue it was a way to give a gift with more impact — after all, Plan, a non-profit charity, reaches more than 90,000 communities and 174.2 million people around the world. "What I like about Plan is that a lot of their Gifts of Hope are providing solutions to people, be it water or nutrition or maternity clinics," Pogue adds. "So they're enduring gifts or opportunities to help on an ongoing basis."

That's the intention of these gifts, notes Jeff Cornett, Plan Canada's vice-president of donor marketing. "Whether it is clean water for a family, a mango tree for a classroom to teach children gardening skills, or a goat that will provide milk, nourishment, and a source of income for a family, these gifts create a real difference in the lives of children and can help lift entire communities out of poverty."

Ruth Pogue with her husband, Greg McLean.

PLAN CANADA PHOTO

Last year's enduring gift that Pogue selected was the peanut butter project, a gift that, for $35, helps provide a valuable source of protein for growing children, and supports local businesses as well. The gift funded women's peanut butter co-operatives whose work included processing the peanuts, and also provided them with training in business and marketing.

While the catalogue is available online at plangifts.com, you can also order the gifts by phone at 1-800-387-1418 or mail in the catalogue order form. And along with giving the gift, Plan also followed up and sent Pogue and fellow donors updates about how some of the projects were faring.

"With Plan Canada, I feel like there really is a plan," Pogue says.

"It's helping these communities to further themselves. You feel your money is going to something worthy."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

When donating to charities, many of us pick a donation area that's significant to us. And it's the ability to direct donations that donors like Kathy Crowell enjoy when she purchases a Gift of Hope through the non-profit charity Plan Canada.

Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's ethical gift giving program focused on bringing change and hope to communities in need.

"I've given my sister Gifts of Hope for the past few years as Christmas gifts," Crowell says.

"I've always given livestock as she is a true animal lover."

Gifts of Hope allow donors to direct funds and engage in Plan's key areas of work such as education, health, clean water, micro-finance and livelihood, and disaster and emergency response.

Many of Plan Canada's gifts also have a donation matching system in which contributions can be matched with a donation from generous funding partners. For example, a $70 donation to provide maternity beds and supplies has a 6-to-1 match ratio, meaning a $70 donation actually ends up having a value of $490.

While a number of Gifts of Hope continue to be popular — such as a mango trees ($15 each, 10 for $120), classroom essentials ($17 for one child, $250 for an entire classroom) to even purchasing a goat ($75 each, $775/herd), which can help provide income and food for families — this year, Plan Canada has also added a number of new gifts. These include: Newborn checkup ($12); help orphaned children affected by HIV ($75); build and stock a school kitchen ($500); and more.

Kathy Crowell in the Virunga mountains with students who are learning a traditional dance.

PLAN CANADA PHOTO

"In addition, this year anyone who purchases a Gift of Hope will be entered to win a trip to Tanzania in 2013 to see Gifts of Hope in action," says Jeff Cornett, Plan Canada's vice-president of donor marketing.

That's what Crowell had a chance to do last year when she travelled to Rwanda through the organization.

"We were able to see the school that was being built, a clinic, a livestock co-op and a micro-financing project," she says.

"Plan Canada is truly making a difference in the world — these Gifts of Hope work. My experience in Rwanda was life-changing."

FIVE GIFTS FOR LESS THAN $50

Here are five gifts less than $50 you can get through Plan Canada's Gifts of Hope program.

NEWBORN CHECKUP ($12): To help support workers who visit moms and their newborns in the first three days of the baby's birth, this kind of checkup can help improve infant mortality rates.

3 BABY CHICKS ($17): Once they start laying eggs, chickens become an instant source of income, often for women. They are also an important teaching tool for young girls to learn livestock management skills.

GIRLS' HYGIENE ESSENTIALS ($25): This gift is essential and can be handed out in critical times such as war/conflict or a natural disaster.

ANTI-MALARIA BED NETS ($30): These nets are locally made and can cover an entire family to help prevent the spread of malaria.

ENDLESS HARVEST ($40): An all-in-one gift that provides gardening essentials such as seeds, tools and training in pest control and farm management.

EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS ($50): For natural disasters or emergencies of any kind, this gift allows Plan to get into a crisis zone fast to help distribute clean water, tarps, high-energy food rations, hygiene supplies and more.

Give a Gift of Hope
Why a goat?
When you give a goat, you provide a family in a developing country with nourishment, the makings of a family business, and a new future. **Gifts of Hope** are real gifts to real projects that change real lives.
Charitable Registration Number: 11892 8993 RR0001
Think outside the gift box
Shop now at plangifts.com
Plan is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies, working in partnership with millions of people around the world to end global poverty.
Plan

SPORTS 4

Reason to cheer for prolonged lockout

World juniors. Canadian squad should be most talented in years, assuming NHL labour dispute continues

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Mark Scheifele, Jonathan Huberdeau. Not bad for a first line. With Dougie Hamilton and Morgan Rielly as the top defence pairing. And probably Malcolm Subban in net.

Coach Steve Spott has picked his talent-loaded team — the 23 players who will represent Canada at the world junior hockey championship in Russia — after a bullet-quick training camp.

Now he can only hope he can keep the team together.

The NHL lockout — or, the possibility that the lockout could end before the tournament is over — haunts him.

How worried is he? "On a scale of one to 10," he said. "Fourteen."

There's a very real risk that one, two or more of his players could be called to their NHL camp if the lockout ends. If they're called before midnight Dec. 25 — the deadline for handing in his roster — they can be replaced. If they're called after, Team Canada would play undermanned.

And it's the team's best players — Nugent-Hopkins (by Edmonton), Huberdeau (by Florida), Hamilton (by Boston) — who are the highest risk of being called back.

Some teams have pledged to Hockey Canada to allow their players to stay through the end of the tournament: The Leafs (Rielly), the Blues (Jordan Binnington, Ty Rattie), the Blue Jackets (Boone Jenner) and Penguins (Scott Harrington).

Scheifele has told the media that the Jets would let him stay, but the Jets have not told Hockey Canada that.

It may come down to public pressure for teams — especially Canadian teams — to leave their players in the tournament.

"We know exactly what we're dealing with," said Scott Salmond, Hockey Canada's senior director of operations.

"I would say it's just like an injury. If someone gets injured between the time we leave for Europe and the time the tournament starts, we can replace those guys. Unfortunately, obviously, it's going to be some of our best players. We've got great depth. We'll just have to call other guys in and some other guys will have to step up."

Plan B is to call back players from among the eight released Thursday evening: Goalie Laurent Brossoit, defencemen Frankie Corrado, Ryan Sproul and Matt Dumba and forwards Daniel Catenacci, Tom Wilson, Mark McNeill and Hunter Shinkaruk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nathan MacKinnon, left, from Cole Harbour, N.S., and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, from Burnaby, B.C., chat at selection camp in Calgary on Wednesday. Both MacKinnon and his Halifax Mooseheads teammate Jonathan Drouin cracked the Canadian roster as 17-year-olds. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"If that was to happen, we have a plan in place to be able to deal with it."

Hockey Canada senior director of operations Scott Salmond on the possibility of losing some top Canadians in the event of a resolution to the NHL lockout

Sweet 17

Halifax Mooseheads duo Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin have cracked the Canadian roster as 17-year-olds.

- The inclusion of the pair is significant because the NHL lockout made all the country's top 19-year-old talent available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

League, NHLPA meet face-to-face

Two days of talks between the NHL, the players' association, and federal mediators still haven't provided any answers for how to end the lockout.

Representatives from the fighting sides made it into the same room with a federal mediator Thursday. They just didn't make noticeable progress. Players' association special counsel Steve Fehr, who met with league lead counsel Bob Batterman on Thursday, said the sides intend to talk Friday in person or by phone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Hamilton heading west to Rangers' rivals in California

Josh Hamilton is heading to the Los Angeles Angels, lured with a $125-million US, five-year contract that steps up the migration of high-profile stars to Southern California.

The Angels persuaded the free-agent outfielder to leave the Texas Rangers with their third big-money off-season signing in as many years. Hamilton heads to Anaheim after first baseman Albert Pujols came west for $240 million last December along with pitcher C.J. Wilson — Hamilton's Texas teammate — for $77.5 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Josh Hamilton THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	5	.762	—
Miami	14	6	.700	11/2
Atlanta	13	6	.684	2
Chicago	12	9	.571	4
Brooklyn	12	9	.571	4
Boston	12	9	.571	4
Milwaukee	11	9	.550	41/2
Philadelphia	12	10	.545	41/2
Indiana	11	11	.500	51/2
Orlando	8	13	.381	8
Charlotte	7	14	.333	9
Detroit	7	17	.292	101/2
Cleveland	5	18	.217	12
Toronto	4	19	.174	13
Washington	3	16	.158	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	18	4	.818	—
San Antonio	18	5	.783	1/2
Memphis	14	5	.737	21/2
L.A. Clippers	16	6	.727	2
Golden State	15	7	.682	3
Utah	13	10	.565	51/2
Minnesota	10	9	.526	61/2
Dallas	11	11	.500	7
Denver	11	12	.478	71/2
Houston	10	11	.476	71/2
Portland	9	12	.429	81/2
L.A. Lakers	9	13	.409	9
Phoenix	8	15	.348	101/2
Sacramento	7	14	.333	101/2
New Orleans	5	16	.238	121/2

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Thursday's results
Charlotte at Atlanta
L.A. Lakers at New York
San Antonio at Portland
Wednesday's results
Brooklyn 94 Toronto 88
Indiana 96 Cleveland 81
Atlanta 86 Orlando 80
Golden State 97 Miami 95
L.A. Clippers 100 Charlotte 94
Chicago 96 Philadelphia 89
Boston 117 Dallas 115 OT
Milwaukee 98 Sacramento 85
Houston 99 Washington 93
Oklahoma City 92 New Orleans 88
Minnesota 108 Denver 105
Phoenix 82 Memphis 80
Utah 99 San Antonio 96
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Golden State at Orlando, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Denver, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Golden State at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m.

LATE THURSDAY

NETS 94, RAPTORS 88

BROOKLYN (94)
Johnson 7-14 5-6 23, Watson 4-7 4-4 16, Blatche 7-14 0-0 14, Williams 5-16 0-0 12, Humphries 1-1 9-10 11, Evans 3-3 3-4 9, Wallace 2-5 5-11 9, Bogans 0-1 0-0 0, Teletovic 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 29-64 26-35 94.
TORONTO (88)
Davis 11-13 2-3 24, Valanciunas 6-6 3-5 15, DeRozan 5-13 0-0 11, Calderon 4-13 0-0 10, Lucas 4-10 1-3 9, Gray 2-4 3-4 7, Ross 3-8 0-0 7, Pietrus 2-8 1-2 5. Totals 37-75 10-17 88.

Brooklyn	20	17	31	26 — 94
Toronto	27	18	19	24 — 88

3-Point Goals—Brooklyn 10-19 (Johnson 4-6, Williams 2-6, Watson 4-4, Teletovic 0-2, Bogans 0-1). Toronto 4-18 (Calderon 2-5, Pietrus 0-5, DeRozan 1-3, Ross 1-3, Lucas 0-2). **Rebounds**—Brooklyn 38 (Evans 11, Blatche 9, Watson 6, Humphries 2, Bogans 2, Johnson 2, Williams 2, Brooks 2, Wallace 1, Teletovic 1). Toronto 31 (Davis 12, DeRozan 5, Valanciunas 4, Calderon 3, Pietrus 2, Gray 2, Ross 2, Lucas 1). **Assists**—Brooklyn 20 (Johnson 4). Toronto 21 (Calderon 15). **Total Fouls**—Brooklyn 16, Toronto 25. A—18,847. T—2:20

NBA LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	22	215	167	643	29.2
Anthony, NYK	19	180	119	527	27.7
Durant, Okl	22	192	183	601	27.3
James, Mia	20	202	78	510	25.5
Harden, Hou	20	150	160	500	25.0
Westbrook, Okl	22	166	99	465	21.1
Aldridge, Por	20	166	87	419	21.0
Mayo, Dal	22	163	70	460	20.9
Pierce, Bos	21	133	117	418	19.9
Curry, GoS	22	148	75	430	19.5
Gay, Mem	19	137	66	363	19.1
Lee, GoS	22	171	75	417	19.0
Parker, SA	21	161	69	399	19.0
Ellis, Mil	20	137	84	373	18.7
Bosh, Mia	20	134	97	369	18.5
Lillard, Por	21	133	74	387	18.4
Howard, LAL	22	143	118	405	18.4
Holiday, Phi	22	162	58	404	18.4
Griffin, LAC	22	166	67	400	18.2
DeRozan, Tor	23	158	90	417	18.1
Anderson, NO	21	145	22	381	18.1
Deng, Chi	21	142	72	375	17.9
Duncan, SA	22	156	80	394	17.9
Walker, Cha	21	134	81	371	17.7
Randolph, Mem	19	134	66	334	17.6
West, Ind	22	159	67	385	17.5
Jefferson, Uta	22	165	52	383	17.4

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

SEMIFINALS
At Yokohama, Japan
Thursday's result
Chelsea (England) 3, Monterrey (Mexico) 1

ENGLISH

FA CUP

SECOND ROUND
Thursday's results
Hastings United 1, Harrogate Town 1, Hastings United won 5-4 on penalty kicks

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	24	12	9	1	2	66	72	27
Providence	22	12	8	0	2	53	61	26
Portland	24	12	10	1	1	74	79	26
Manchester	24	11	10	2	1	68	61	25
St. John's	26	11	14	0	1	59	75	23

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	22	14	4	1	3	79	47	32
Bridgeport	24	11	11	1	1	73	81	24
Connecticut	24	11	11	2	0	71	83	24
Albany	21	8	8	0	5	50	56	21
Adirondack	23	10	12	1	0	59	69	21

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	24	15	6	1	2	88	70	33
Binghamton	21	13	6	1	1	67	52	28
W-B/Scranton	23	13	8	1	1	68	61	28
Hershey	26	13	12	1	0	70	71	27
Norfolk	22	10	12	0	0	63	68	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	24	14	4	3	3	63	48	34
Toronto	23	13	9	0	1	76	65	27
Lake Erie	25	12	11	1	1	74	78	26
Rochester	22	11	9	2	0	72	66	24
Hamilton	21	9	10	1	1	43	64	20

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	22	13	7	1	1	74	62	28
Rockford	25	13	11	0	1	81	76	27
Chicago	22	10	9	2	1	58	66	23
Milwaukee	23	10	10	2	1	64	70	23
Peoria	24	9	11	2	2	57	82	22

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	25	14	9	0	2	82	71	30
Houston	23	13	7	1	2	76	64	29
Texas	23	12	8	2	1	58	62	27
Oklahoma City	23	11	9	1	2	73	70	25
San Antonio	25	10	12	0	3	66	75	23

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.
Thursday's results
Rochester at Lake Erie
Hamilton at Chicago
Wednesday's results
Hershey 4 St. John's 0
W-B/Scranton 3 Albany 6
Worcester 1 Connecticut 2
Binghamton 3 Syracuse 4
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Manchester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Albany at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Houston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Binghamton at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Houston at Charlotte, 12 p.m.
Manchester at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Providence at Albany, 7 p.m.
Portland at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
St. John's at Springfield, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Hamilton at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.
Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named Bobby Dickerson third base coach. Agreed to terms with OF Nate McLouth on a one-year contract.
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with OF Shane Victorino on a three-year contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Kevin Correia on a two-year contract.
National League
CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with INF Jack Hannahan on a two-year contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with INF Andres Blanco, INF Josh Fields, LHP Cesar Jimenez, C Steven Lerud, OF Jermaine Michell, INF/OF Michael Martinez, RHP Zach Miner, INF/OF Pete Orr and C Humberto Quintero on minor league contracts.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

KANSAS CITY T-BONE—Signed RHP Derek McGowan.
American West Baseball League
YUMA DESERT RATS—Named Hal McRae manager and Jake Thrower hitting-infield coach.

FRONTIER LEAGUE

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES—Signed RHP Ja'Vaun West to a contract extension.
RIVER CITY RASCALS—Signed RHP Gabe Shaw to a contract extension.

NFL

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB Vic So'oto to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS—Signed TE Brandon Barden from the practice squad. Signed S Suaesi Tuimaunei to the practice squad.

CFL

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Signed OL Brendan Dunn, DB Teague Sherman and DB Jawann Westerman.

MLS

COLUMBUS CREW—Agreed to terms with MF Wil Trapp.
NEW YORK RED BULLS—Released D Rafa Marquez.
SPORTING KANSAS CITY—Signed D Yann Songo'o.

U.S. COLLEGE

ARKANSAS—Named Sam Pittman offensive line coach.
RUTGERS—Suspended men's Basketball coach Mike Rice three games and fined him $50,000 for a violation of department policy.
SOUTHERN MISS—Granted the release of the athletic scholarship of freshman QB Anthony Alford.
SPRING HILL—Announced the resignation of men's and women's tennis coach Michael Kreider.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	472	274
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	.462	245	306
Miami	5	8	0	.385	240	276
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	289	352

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	11	2	0	.846	365	263
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	292	329
Tennessee	4	9	0	.308	271	386
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	216	359

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	331	273
Pittsburgh	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	321	280
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	259	272

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	10	3	0	.769	375	257
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	292	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	248	402
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154	195	352

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	5	0	.615	373	270
Washington	7	6	0	.538	343	329
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	300	314
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	240	341

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	337	259
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	354	308
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	348	379
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	265	312

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	323	279
Chicago	8	5	0	.615	308	219
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	283	286
Detroit	4	9	0	.308	320	342

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	3	1	.731	316	184
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	300	202
St. Louis	6	6	1	.500	236	279
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	186	292

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 15

Thursday's result
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Sunday's games — All Times Eastern
Washington at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m.
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, December 17
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

AUSTRALIAN PGA

At Coolum, Australia
Par: 72
First Round

Daniel Popovic, Australia	33-31—64
Scott Strange, Australia	33-33—66
Zhang Xinjun, China	35-32—67
Choo Tze-huang, Singapore	34-33—67
Geoff Ogilvy, Australia	35-32—67
Jason Scrivener, Australia	33-35—68
Ryan Haller, Australia	33-35—68
Stephen Dartnall, Australia	33-35—68
Peter Senior, Australia	32-36—68
Brad Kennedy, Australia	34-35—69
Aaron Townsend, Australia	34-35—69
Bronson La'Cassie, Australia	35-34—69
Marc Leishman, Australia	33-36—69
Stephen Leaney, Australia	33-36—69
Steve Conran, Australia	34-35—69
Adam Bland, Australia	34-35—69
Josh Geary, New Zealand	34-35—69
Matthew Griffin, Australia	34-35—69
Steven Jones, Australia	34-36—70
Terry Pilkadaris, Australia	32-38—70
Michael Wright, Australia	35-35—70
James Nitties, Australia	34-36—70
Peter Fowler, Australia	35-35—70
Stuart Appleby, Australia	34-36—70
Adam Crawford, Australia	35-35—70
Steven Bowditch, Australia	36-34—70
Cameron Percy, Australia	38-32—70
Nick Flanagan, Australia	34-36—70
Darren Clarke, N Ireland	34-36—70
Leigh McKechnie, Australia	34-36—70
Peter Cooke, Australia	36-34—70
Gavin Flint, Australia	35-35—70
Jason Kang, United States	34-36—70
Matthew Guyatt, Australia	35-36—71
Ashley Hall, Australia	31-40—71
Anthony Summers, Australia	33-38—71
Mark Brown, New Zealand	34-37—71
David Smail, New Zealand	33-38—71
Jamie Arnold, Australia	36-35—71
Chris Gaunt, Australia	37-34—71
Park Hyo-won, South Korea	34-37—71
Mathew Goggin, Australia	34-37—71
Richard Green, Australia	36-35—71

ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP

At Malelane, South Africa
Par 72
First round

Gregory Bourdy, France	32-34-66
Louis de Jager, South Africa	31-36-67
Oliver Bekker, South Africa	34-33-67
Steve Webster, England	34-33-67
Richard Bland, England	34-33-67
Darren Fichardt, South Africa	33-34-67
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa	32-35-67
Graeme Storm, England	35-33-68
Mark Williams, South Africa	35-33-68
Branden Grace, South Africa	33-35-68
Maximilian Kieffer, Germany	35-33-68
Ockie Strydom, South Africa	36-33-69
Richard McEvoy, England	34-35-69
Robert Rock, England	35-34-69
Oscar Floren, Sweden	34-35-69
Tommy Fleetwood, England	34-35-69
David Drysdale, Scotland	32-37-69
Jaco van Zyl, South Africa	33-36-69
Espen Kofstad, Norway	34-35-69
Matthew Baldwin, England	33-36-69

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you can no longer see the point of something then there is no reason why you should go on wasting time on it. Turn your attention towards more interesting things today, such as your social life and travel.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
No matter how many times you have bet against the odds and won in the past, you are unlikely to fare so well today. Err on the side of caution. Both in your personal life and in your work, you must play it safe.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You seem reluctant to commit yourself to a plan or project that on most other occasions would appeal to you. Most likely your sixth sense is trying to tell you that it's too dangerous to get involved. Heed its warning.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There is a danger that you will push yourself too hard and burn yourself out. Save as much of your physical, mental and emotional energy as you can today and over the weekend. You'll need it early next week.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
What would you do if you knew that you could not fail? Cosmic activity in the sympathetic sign of Sagittarius indicates that your dreams really will come true — if you have the courage to reach for them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your main task over the next 24 hours is to find a positive outlet for all the emotional energy that has been building up inside you. Activities of a physical nature are an especially good way to let off steam.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It never hurts to let those you love know how much you care for them and you will get the chance to do that today and over the weekend. What you give out now will come back to you later many times over.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
The planets suggest the efforts you make now will pay off in a big way around the middle part of next week. The powers that be have not forgotten you, but it doesn't hurt to remind them what you can do.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will fight with all your powers to get what it is you desire today and you won't take no for an answer. Your rivals will sense how serious you are and, for the most part, move aside rather than take you on.

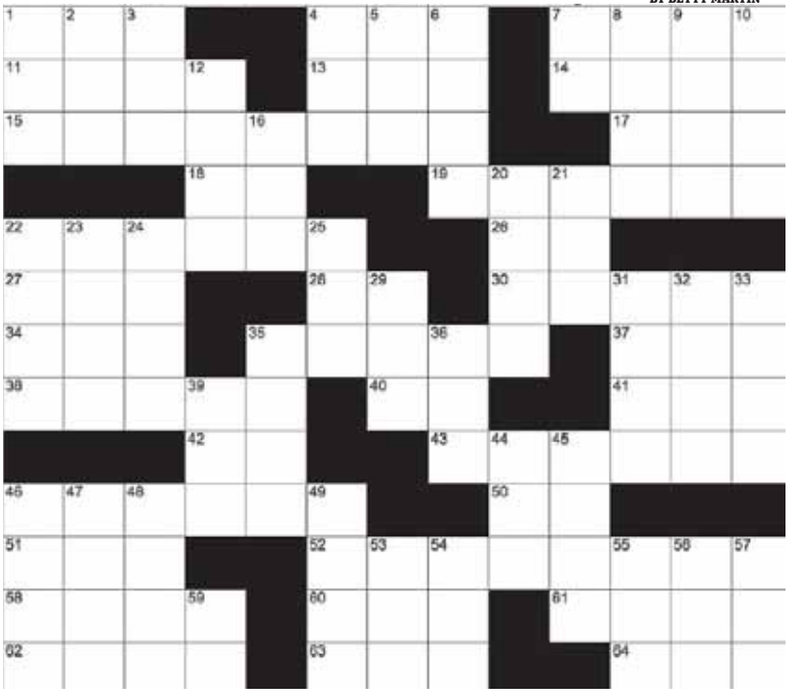
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your career plans are more likely to succeed if you keep your aims to yourself, at least for the next few days. The more you let rivals know what it is you desire, the easier you make it for them to deny you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may have a different outlook and a different way of doing things to a colleague but ultimately you share the same goal, so find ways you can work together. Your differences can make you both stronger and more effective.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What happens today and over the weekend will open your eyes to new possibilities and make you realize how much more is possible. Banish negative thinking in all its forms — there's no need for it at all. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

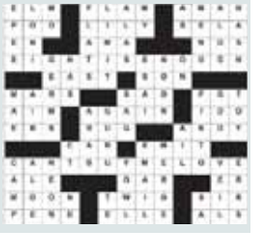
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. When Paris sizzles
4. Provoke
7. Red Muppet
11. Peeples and Vardalos
13. Actress — Dawn Chong
14. — to Avonlea
15. Trigger
17. The Plastic — Band
18. Sha – Na
19. Decent
22. Scope
26. – lieu of
27. Summer attire
28. – Elsewhere
30. Geeks
34. Ortiz of Ugly Betty
35. Garden pest
37. Important time
38. Elegant shop
40. Modern Family actor
41. Ziering of Beverly Hills, 90210
42. Providence state
43. Citrus fruit
46. Anderson of Baywatch
50. Plural suffix
51. Exist
52. Like some brides
58. Irritate
60. Cartoon shriek
61. Lake near Buffao
62. Darrin's boss on Bewitched
63. Trash bag closer
64. Right angle shape

Down
1. Disney doe
2. Spasm
3. Snack
4. Writer Levin
5. Alley rodent
6. Hang on to
7. Night time drama starring Noah Wyle
8. Noose
9. Lion's locks
10. Smell
12. Without
16. Moving vehicle
20. Coat that gets tossed
21. — Life to Live
22. Airport postings, for short
23. Princess warrior of TV
24. Shade of blue
25. Recipe abbr.
29. What's — use?
31. Harness strap
32. Trail
33. Lucid
35. Shrub
36. Wedding words
39. Mineral
44. Matter, in law
45. Tennis great Arthur
46. Actor's quest
47. Diva's solo
48. Thaw
49. Promote, as criminal intent
53. Flower garland
54. Hawaiian instrument (abbr.)
55. Tick off
56. Zip
57. Harden
59. Star of CHiPs (init.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	9		8				3	
			7				8	4
		4	6		9	5	2	
	5	7						
2								6
						1	9	
	1	2	5		3	7		
7	8				4			
	6				1		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

*Conditions apply. Offer is valid at Flight Centre locations in Canada. Limit one (1) discount per person. Airfare must be roundtrip and originating in Canada. Offer is not combinable with any other offer or discount. Save $50 on roundtrip flights to USA and within Canada. Save $100 on international airfares. Valid on new bookings only. Not valid on bookings made at www.flightcentre.ca. Not valid on charter airfares with, but not limited to: Air Transat, Sunwing, Canjet, Thomas Cook, and Air Canada Vacations. Not valid on children and infant rates. Booking must be made and paid in full on Dec 14, 2012. Head office address: 1 Dundas St W Suite 200, Toronto, ON. Call for retail locations. ONT. REG #4671384

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Gold Buying Prices by Karat

Karat | Price/gram

1 ounce (9999) Maple Leaf Coins (sealed)	$1,600.77/coin
9999 Canada Maple leaf, less than 1 ounce	$51.47/g
24k Jewellery	$40.21/g
22k	$36.83/g
E. Indian/Nuggets	$32.65/g
18k	$30.16/g
14k and dental	$23.44/g
10k	$16.73/g
9k	$15.08/g
8k/antique gold	$10.05/g

Gold Bar Buying Prices

Gold Bars | Buy Price

Gold 1 ounce (Recognized)	$1,550.75
Gold 10 ounce (Recognized)	$15,424.10
Gold 1kg (Recognized)	$49,588.47
Gold bars, less than 1 ounce (Recognized)	$49.60/g
999 Gold bar (Unrecognized)	$48.25/g

Silver Coin, Bars, and Jewellery Buying Prices - Canada Coins | Price

Maple Leaf (1 ounce Silver)	$31.24/coin

Silver Jewellery and Other Silver | Price

Stamped Sterling Silver Flatware	$0.62/g
Stamped Sterling Silver Jewellery	$0.58/g
Mexican Silver stamped 925	$0.49/g
Stamped 800 Silver	$0.48/g
Unstamped scrap silver	$0.31/g
Other silver coins	$0.66/g

*Actual buying prices are based on weight of silver content, which is lower for worn coins.

Prices Updated: 2012-12-13, 14:51:46 PM

Example Purchase 1:

Purity: 14k • Weight: 193.50g

PRICE: $4,535.64

Example Purchase 2:

Purity: 24k • Weight: 6.42g

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Example Purchase 3:

Purity: 14k • Weight: 183.30g

PRICE: $4,296.55

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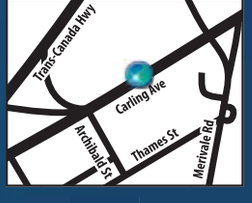

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